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THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE.

A ROMANCE OF THE UNROMANTIC.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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CHAPTER XXIII.

A MOMENTOUS RESOLUTION.

During the months which Ezra Girdlestone had spent in Africa the affairs of the firm in Fenchurch-street had been exceedingly prosperous. Trade upon the coast had been brisker than usual, and three of the company's ships had come in at short intervals with excellent cargoes. Among these were the *Black Eagle*, which, to the astonishment of Captain Hargrave and the disgust of the Channel, had weathered a severe gale in the Channel, and had arrived safe and sound once more. This run of luck, supplemented by the business capacity of the old merchant and the indomitable energy of young Dimsdale, made the concern look so flourishing that the former felt more than ever convinced that if he could but stave off the immediate danger things would soon right themselves. Hence he read with delight the letters from Africa, in which his son narrated the success of the conspiracy and the manner in which the miners had been hoodwinked. The old man's face grew straight and his step more firm as the conviction grew upon him that the company would soon return once again to its former condition of affluence.

It may be imagined, therefore, that when the rumour of a bonafide diamond find in the Orange Free State came to his ears John Girdlestone was much agitated and distressed. On the same day that he saw the announcement in the papers he received a letter from his son announcing the failure of their enterprise. After narrating the robbery, the pursuit, the death of Fairbank, and the announcement of the new discovery, it gave an account of his subsequent movements.

"There was no doubt about the truth of the second-hand words," he said, "for when we went to the nearest farm to get some food and have the sergeant's wound dressed we found that everyone was talking about it. There was a chap there who had just come from the State and knew all about it. After hearing the details from him I saw that there was no doubt of the genuineness of the thing."

"The police rode back to Jacobabad with Williams, and I promised to come after them; but when I came to think over it didn't seem good enough. The fact of my having so many diamonds would set every tongue wagging, and again the sergeant had heard what Fairbank said to me, so it was very possible that I might have the whole district about my ears. As it was, I had the stones and all my money in the bag. I wrote back to the hotel, therefore, telling the landlord to send on my traps to Cape Town by mail, and promising to settle my bill with him when I received them. I then bought a horse and came straight south. I shall take the first steamer and be with you within a few days of your receiving this."

"As to our speculation, it is, of course, all up. Even when the Russian business proves to be a hoax, the price of stones will remain low on account of these new fields. It is possible that we may sell our lot at some small profit, but it won't be the royal road to a fortune that you prophesied, nor will it help the firm out of the rut into which you have shoved it. My only regret in leaving Africa like this is that that vermin Williams will have no one to prosecute him. My head is almost well now."

This letter was a rude shock to the African merchant. Within a week of the receipt of it his son Ezra, gloomy and travel-stained, walked into the sanctum at Fenchurch-street and recounted all the evil tidings by word of mouth. The old man was so tough as to break down completely, but his body hands closed convulsively upon the arms of the chair, and a cold perspiration broke out upon his wrinkled forehead as he listened to such details as his son vouchsafed to afford him.

"You have your stones all safe, though?" he stammered out at last.

"They are in my box, at home," said Ezra, gloomy and morose, leaning against the white marble mantelpiece. "The Lord knows what they are worth! We'll be lucky if we clear as much as they cost and a margin for my expenses and Langworthy's. A broken head is all that I have got from your fine scheme."

"Who could foresee such a thing?" the old man said, plaintively. "He might have added Major Clutterbuck a thousand pounds as another item to be cleared, but he thought it as well to keep silent upon the point."

"Any fool could foresee the possibility of it," quoth Ezra brusquely.

"The fall in prices is sure to be permanent then?" the old man asked.

"It will last for some years, anyway," Ezra answered. "The Jacobfontein gravel is very rich, and there seems to be plenty of it."

"And within a few months we must repay both capital and interest. We are ruined!" The old merchant spoke in a broken voice, and his head sank upon his breast. "When that day comes," he continued, "the firm which has been for thirty years above reproach, and a model to the whole City, will be proclaimed as a bankrupt concern. Worse still, it will be shown to have been kept afloat for years by means which will be deemed fraudulent. I tell you, my dear son, that if any means could be devised which would save this—my means—I should not hesitate to adopt them. I am a frail old man, and I feel that the short balance of my life would be a small thing to give in return for the assurance that the work which I have built up should not be altogether thrown away."

"Your life cannot affect the matter one way or the other unless it were more heavily insured than it is," Ezra said, callously, though somewhat moved by his father's intensity of manner. "Perhaps there is some way out of the wood yet," he added, in a more cheerful tone.

"It's so saying so prosperous—that's what goes to my heart. If it is sacrificed itself to outside speculations—my wretched, wretched speculations. That is what makes it so hard." He touched the bell, and Gilray answered the summons. "Listen to this, Ezra. What was our turn over last month, Gilray?"

"Fifteen thousand pounds, sir," said the little clerk, bobbing up and down like a buoy in a sea in his delight at seeing the junior partner once again.

"And the expenses?"

"Nine thousand three hundred. Uncommon brown you look, Mr. Ezra, to be sure, uncommon brown and well. I hope as you enjoyed yourself in Africa, sir, and was too much for them Hottentots and Boers." With this profound ethnographic remark Mr. Gilray bobbed himself out of the room and went back radiantly to his ink-stained desk.

"Look at that," the old man said, when the click of the outer door showed that the clerk was out of earshot. "Over five thousand profit in a month. Is it not terrible that such a business should go to ruin? What a fortune it would have been for you!"

"By heavens, it must be saved!" cried Ezra with meditative brows and hands plunged deep in his trouser pockets. "There is that girl's money. Could we not get the temporary use of it?"

"Impossible!" his father answered with a sigh. "It is so tied up in the will that she cannot sign it away herself until she comes of age. There

is no way of touching it except by her marriage—or her death."

"Then we must have it by the only means open to us."

"And that is?"

"I must marry her."

"You will?"

"I shall. Here is my hand on it."

"Then we are saved," cried the old man, throwing up his tremulous hands. "Girdlestone and Son will weather the storm yet."

But Girdlestone becomes a sleeping partner, said Ezra. It's for my own sake I do it and not for yours; with which frank remark he drew his hat down over his brow and set off for Eccleston-square.

CHAPTER XXIV.

A DANGEROUS PROMISE.

During Ezra Girdlestone's absence in Africa his heroic life had been even less eventful than of old. There was a consistency about the merchant's establishment which, summed up, was the main thing. The house itself was austere and gloomy, and every separate room, in spite of profuse expenditure and gorgeous furniture, had the same air of discomfort. The servants, too, were, with one single exception, from the hard-ripped housekeeper to the Calvinistic footman, a depressing and melancholy race. The only departure from this general rule was Kate's own maid, Rebecca Taylor, a loudly-dressed, dark-eyed, coarse-voiced young woman, who raised up her voice and wept when Ezra departed for Africa. This damsel's presence was most disagreeable to Kate, and, indeed, to John Girdlestone also, who only retained her on account of his son's strong views upon the subject, and out of fear of an explosion which might wreck all his plans.

The old merchant was Kate's only companion during this period, and their conversation was usually limited to a conventional inquiry as to breakfast time as to each other's health. On his return from the City in the evening Girdlestone was always in a moody humour, and would eat his dinner hastily and in silence. After dinner he was in the habit of reading methodically the various financial articles in the day's papers, which would occupy him until bedtime. Occasionally his companion would read these aloud to him, and such was the monotony of her uneventful life that she found herself becoming insensibly interested in the fluctuations of Grand Trunk scrip or Ohio and Delaware shares. The papers once exhausted, a bell was rung to summon the footman, and when all was quiet the old man would take a hard metallic rod and read through the lesson for the day and the evening prayers. On grand occasions he supplemented this by a short address, in the course of which he would tell his frightened audience with hard jagged texts until he had reduced them to a fitting state of spiritual misery. No wonder that, under the influence of such an existence, the roses began to fade from his wife's cheeks, and her youthful heart to grow sad and heavy.

One daily tonic there was, however, which never deserted him. Strictly as Girdlestone guarded his outer world, he was unable to prevent this one little ray of light penetrating his prison. With an eye to the future he had so placed her that it seemed to him to be impossible that any sympathy could reach her from the outside world. Visits and visitors were alike forbidden to her. On no consideration was she to venture out alone. In spite of all his precautions, however, love has many arts and wiles which defy all opposition, and which can outplot the deepest of plotters.

Eccleston-square was by no means in a direct line between Kensington and the City, yet morning and evening, as sure as the clock would strike, John Girdlestone put on at the door to his study his best and to quarter to six, Tom would stride through the old-fashioned square and past the grim house, whose grimaces were softened to his eyes through its association with the bright dream of his life. It was but the momentary glance of a sweet face at an upper window and a single wave of a white hand, but it sent him on with a fresh heart and courage, and it broke the dull monotony of his dreary life.

Occasionally, as we have seen, he even managed to find his way into the interior of this cage of stone, in which his fair princess was imprisoned. John Girdlestone put on at the door to his study his best and to quarter to six, Tom would stride through the old-fashioned square and past the grim house, whose grimaces were softened to his eyes through its association with the bright dream of his life. It was but the momentary glance of a sweet face at an upper window and a single wave of a white hand, but it sent him on with a fresh heart and courage, and it broke the dull monotony of his dreary life.

The centre of the square was taken up by a garden, rectangular and uninviting, fenced round with high forbidding rails which shut out all intruders and gave the place a resemblance to the exercise ground of a prison. Within the garden were clumps of bushes and here and there a few dependent trees drooped their heads as though mourning over the uncommemorial site in which they had been planted. Among these trees and bushes there were scattered seats, and the whole estate was at the disposal of the inhabitants of Eccleston-square, and was dignified by the name of the Eccleston Gardens. This was the only spot in which Kate was trusted without the surveillance of a footman, and it was therefore a favourite haunt of hers, where she would read or work for an hour or so in the quietude of the seclusion.

Hence it came about that one day, as Thomas Dimsdale was making his way Cityward at a rather earlier hour than was customary with him, he missed the usual apparition at the window. Looking round blankly in search of some explanation of this absence, he perceived in the garden a pretty white bonnet which glistened among the leaves, and on closer inspection a pair of bright eyes, which surveyed him merrily from underneath the shade of a bush.

The time was open and he less than ten minutes to tell it the sacrilegious feet of the young man had invaded the sacred domains devoted to the sole use and behoof of the Ecclestons. It may be imagined that he was somewhat late at the office that morning and on many subsequent mornings, until the clerks began to think that their new employer was losing the enthusiasm for business which had possessed him.

Tom frequently begged permission to inform Mr. Girdlestone of his engagement, but Kate was invariable upon that point. The fact is, that she knew her guardian's character very much better than her lover did, and remembering his frequent exhortations upon the subject of the vanity and wickedness of such things, she feared the effects of his anger when he learned the truth. In a year or so she would be of age and her own mistress, but at present she was entirely in his power. Why should she subject herself to the certainty of constant harshness and unkindness which would result from her guardian really fulfilled the functions of a father towards her he would have a right to be informed, but as it was she felt that she owed him no such duty. She, therefore, made up her mind that he should know nothing of the matter, but the fates unfortunately willed otherwise.

It chanced that one morning the interview between the lovers had lasted rather longer than usual, and had been concluded by Kate's returning to the house, while Tom remained sitting upon the garden seat lost in such a reverie as affects the soul in his position. While thus pleasantly employed, his thoughts were suddenly recalled to earth by the appearance of a dark shadow on the gravel in front of him, and looking up he saw the senior partner standing a short distance away and regarding him with anything but an amiable expression upon his face. He had himself been having a morning stroll in the garden, and had overheard the pre-occupied lovers being aware of his presence.

"Are you coming to the office?" he asked sternly. "If so, we can go together."

Tom rose and followed him out of the gardens without a word. He knew from the other's expression that all was known to him, and in his heart he was not sorry. His only fear was that the old man's anger might fall upon his ward, and this he determined to prevent. They walked side by side as far as the station in complete silence, but on reaching Fenchurch-street Girdlestone asked his young partner to step into his private sanctum.

"Now, sir," he said, as he closed the door behind him, "I think that I have a right to inquire what the meaning may be of the scene of which I was an involuntary witness this morning."

"It means," Tom answered firmly but gently, "that I am engaged to Miss Harston and have been for some time."

"Oh, indeed?" Girdlestone answered coldly, sitting down at his desk and turning over the pile of letters.

"At my request," said Tom, "our engagement was kept from your knowledge. I had reason to believe that you objected to early engagements, and I feared that ours might be disagreeable to you. I trust that the recording angel will not register a very black mark against my friend for this, the one and only falsehood that ever passed his lips."

During the long silent walk the merchant had been revolving in his mind what course he should pursue, and he had come to the conclusion that it was more easy to guide this impetuous stream of youth than to attempt to stem it. He did not realise the strength of the tie that bound these two young people together, and imagined that with judgment and patience it might yet be broken. It was, therefore, with as good an imitation of gallantry as his angular visage would permit of that he answered his companion's confession.

"You can hardly wonder at my being surprised," he said. "Such a thing never entered my mind for a moment. You would have done better to have confided in me before."

"I must ask your pardon for not having done so."

"As far as you are concerned," said John Girdlestone, "I believe you to be hard-working and right principled. Your conduct since you have joined the firm has been everything which I could desire."

Tom bowed his acknowledgments, much pleased by this preamble.

"With regard to my ward," continued the senior partner, speaking very slowly and evidently weighing his words, "I could not wish her to have a better husband. In considering such a question I have, however, as you may imagine, to consult above everything else the wishes of my dear friend, your father, the father of the young lady to whom you say that you are engaged. A trust has been reposed in me, and that trust must, of course, be fulfilled to the letter."

"Certainly," said Tom, wondering in his own mind how he could ever have brought himself for one moment to think of this of this kind and righteous old man.

"It was one of Mr. Harston's most clearly expressed wishes that no woman or woman's thought of matters should be allowed to come in his daughter's way until she had attained maturity, by which he meant the age of one-and-twenty."

"But he could not foresee the circumstances," Tom pleaded. "I am sure that a year or so will make no difference in her sentiments in this matter."

"My duty is to carry out his instructions to the letter. I won't say, however," continued Mr. Girdlestone, "that circumstances might not arise which might induce me to shorten this probationary period, but I must not do so until I have your father's high impression which I now have of your commercial ability, that of course would have weight with me; and again if I find that Miss Harston's mind is made up upon the point, that also would influence my judgment."

"And what are we to do in the meantime?" asked the junior partner anxiously.

"In the meantime neither you nor your people must write to her, or speak to her, or hold any communication with her whatever. If I find you or them doing so, I shall be compelled in justice to Mr. Harston's last request to send her to some establishment abroad where she shall be entirely out of your way. My mind is irrevocably made up upon that point. It is not a matter of personal inclination, but of conscience."

"And how long is this to last?" cried Tom.

"It will depend upon yourself. If you prove yourself to be a man of honour and high matter, I may be inclined to sanction your address to her, or to permit her to write to you, or to speak to her, or to hold any communication with her whatever. If I find you or them doing so, I shall be compelled in justice to Mr. Harston's last request to send her to some establishment abroad where she shall be entirely out of your way. My mind is irrevocably made up upon that point. It is not a matter of personal inclination, but of conscience."

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

It is all very well for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork to denounce the little local secret society which has come under his notice. He is right in that, of course, more especially as the organisation which excites his indignation appears to practice murder as one of the fine arts. But the National League is a secret society to a large extent, inasmuch as no publicity is ever given to the details of its expenditure, thus admitting of the funds being used for unlawful purposes. Yet the Roman Catholic hierarchy blesses the league, while hundreds of priests take a leading part in its control.

Certain indiscreet partisans of Mr. Parnell are loudly making boast beforehand that he will emerge with unimpaired character from the Divorce Court. Perhaps, but how can any one make sure of that until Captain O'Shea's evidence is given? This desperate hurry to pronounce Mr. Parnell innocent before the case is tried looks very much as if his friends were half afraid of an adverse decision, and therefore endeavoured to whitewash him in anticipation. The duty of the public is to keep a perfectly open mind, without the slightest bias towards the one side or the other. Mr. Parnell is entitled to expect that much, but nothing more.

It is very observable how much gentler Mr. Gladstone's epistolary tone has become when dealing with Tory iniquities. Can there be any truth in the rumour which credits him with a half desire to return to the party to which he formerly belonged? That appears altogether incredible; one can no more imagine Mr. Gladstone coming out as a Conservative than picture Lord Salisbury falling into line with street demagogues. My solution of the enigma is that Mr. Gladstone, disgusted with the revolt of the Labourers, considers it politic to give them a hint that, if they do not mend their manners, he will throw in his lot with the other side.

Really, it is too much of a good thing to have the Government hauled over the coals for not compelling the South Metropolitan Gas Company to submit to the strikers. What part had the Government in the quarrel? None whatever; capital and labour fell by the ears, and the sole duty resting on the Home Office was to see that both got fair play. Some trade unionists would really seem to imagine that the prime function of the police is to help malcontent workmen to crush their employers. That is their notion of "fair play."

I am glad to see, from the more detailed reports of the great Baboo meeting at Bombay, that Mr. Bradlaugh guarded his tongue with admirable discretion, and carefully refrained from committing himself to any of the chimerical "reforms" which young India has evolved from its inner consciousness. I strongly suspect that, being on the spot, he saw through the hollowness and insincerity of the whole agitation. Represented as a "national," it is disavowed and denounced by the two great communities of Mahomedans and Parsees, while the warlike races of the North-west flout it contemptuously as a ludicrous sham.

Now that the re-assembling of Parliament draws nigh, a good many people indulge in prophecy as to the details of forthcoming legislation. I will only venture three predictions: that we shall have a very important measure dealing with the Irish land question, that the Tithe Bill will be pushed forward with all possible despatch, and that a legislative effort will be made to still further improve the dwellings of the poorer classes. Of course the Channel Tunnel Bill will be "chucked" by a large majority, and the same fate is likely to attend the new subterranean railways for London, especially the one proposing to run under Oxford-street.

It is an open secret that Messrs. Labouchere and Storey intend to maintain their rebellious attitude towards Mr. Gladstone which characterised their conduct last session. They are determined to make him feel that Home Rule will never win by itself; to give it a chance, it must be rendered palatable by an encirclement of Jack Cade projects. How bitterly does Mr. Labouchere seem to hate the order to which he belongs by birth. Like Rochester, he is apparently unable to forgive it for the slights he received from it during his earlier life.

Will the Conservatives ever pluck up courage to go for women's suffrage? Almost all their leaders are in favour of it, but the opinion of the party at large still requires a deal of "educating." Yet even the most high-minded Tory recognises the political competency of lovely women, as manifested by the energetic dames of the Primrose League. It is a striking anomaly that while the assistance of these ladies in returning Conservative members is eagerly accepted, they are not allowed to give that other little bit of help, a vote.

There is another matter in which our party might, I think, advantageously take a new departure. The Conservative journalist who battles with but scant appreciation from those whose battle he daily fights, is the Liberal journalist, if a man of real ability, has a high career thrown open to him. The knighthood just conferred on Colonel Bowler, of the Manchester Courier, does not tell against this argument, any more than the baronetcy bestowed upon Sir Algernon Northwick. Both were honoured as the proprietors of successful Conservative newspapers, but not as working journalists.

OLD IZAAK.

"Whether it is a touch of the fashionable malady, or only a bad cold, I don't know, but I have been obliged to ask a fishing friend to supply my place this week, which he has kindly consented to do."

It would be a poor friend indeed who did not respond heartily to such an appeal, and who goes, although my jottings will necessarily be of an unsatisfactory nature, as I have not been out on the river for some time.

To my mind, there is nothing like winter fishing if you can only stand the exposure. It is, of course, foolhardy to attempt it without due preparation and proper clothing, as many a poor fellow has gone to his last home by overtaking himself, and suddenly attempting what he was physically unable to perform.

First of all, then, be sure to be well shod, and don't be afraid to put on an extra flannel shirt, and, pace the tectotallers, have a little flask of whisky against an accidental immersion or to warm you up if you feel uncommonly cold. Thus provided, and with a good sound mackintosh and a constitution to match, you can defy the elements, and often have such a day's sport as is quite undreamt of by the summer angler.

In the first place, fish always seem to take better in the winter than the summer—that is, when they are really "on." It is very much like ourselves. What a "twist" one has after a good long walk on a frosty morning, and how deliciously appetising everything appears. The summer stroll may make one peckish, but nothing to compare with the winter constitutional. The same holds good with Master Jack and Master Perch especially.

I read great accounts of large roach being taken lately, and my mouth waters at the thought. "A pound roach in a strong stream and with light tackle," once wrote a celebrated angler, is capable of bringing the blood to the face of even a salmon fisher. That man knew what he was writing about, for at this time of year give me the two fish I have mentioned in a previous paragraph.

Of these I think the perch is my favourite. He is such a bold biter, and then he is gregarious, which means that when you catch one, all his sisters, his cousins, and his aunts seem so anxious to accompany him home with you. After a flood there is

no better bait than a well-soured brandling (but, when the water is fine, a lively minnow beats everything in creation. Minnows in cold waters carry so much better than in warm, but chase the water when you have an opportunity to get a nuisance to arrive at the fishing ground with a lot of dead or dying bait.

Personally, I prefer float fishing to paternoster fishing; but this is, of course, a matter of taste. There is something very game in a perch bite, which positively sends a thrill through me even now, after so many years' experience of more lordly fish. First of all the float gives a little bob, then another, and finally it sails down into the depths in a most unmistakable manner. Now comes the joy of shortening the line and striking. No fear of it being "only a nibble," for at once you feel you have hold of a half-pounder, with the almost certainty that the rest of the party will kindly remain near until you have had time to "drop them a line" to join the family circle in your creel.

All this, I hear my readers say, is very elementary and tells us nothing new. Possibly not, but it recalls, perchance, a pleasant day with Master Eke, and may stimulate some lazy angler to have yet another turn with him before the end of the season. If it serves no other purpose, it may very likely emphasise the wisdom of "Old Isaak," and make his readers devoutly hope that by next week he may be himself again, and ready and willing, as he always is, to chat with us anglers on our favourite topic of fish and fishing.

PIPER PAN.

A member of Mr. Henry Abbey's Italian Opera company sends me glowing accounts of the success made at Chicago by Madame Patti and Signor Tamagno especially. Of course, English critics who have seen this famous tenor in only one rôle—that of Otello—are hardly able to judge him fairly, great as was the success he made at our Lyceum Theatre last year. My correspondent tells me that in the exacting rôle of Arnoldo ("Guillaume Tell") Tamagno was really superb. "Il Trovatore," his splendid high notes awakened a furor of applause, and he has become quite as popular as Patti.

My correspondent says that the new Chicago Auditorium is the most magnificent temple of music in the world, and is rightly filled by the élite of Chicago society, all the balls and evening parties customary during the Christmas season being postponed until after the close of the Italian Opera season. Writing in Christmas week, my correspondent adds that "although the weather is wonderfully mild for the season, the house is so heated that they do not know how to breathe." A singer that "does not know how to breathe" is in a bad way.

From another correspondent, who says that "Chicago is the Manchester of America; smutty and dirty, with only one redeeming point, Lake Michigan," I learn that Madame Albani's début as Margherita, in Gounod's "Faust," was highly successful, and the Chicago critics declare that her voice has improved since her previous appearance there, two years back. I am sorry to add that Madame Nordica and her book-seller's catalogue are the only pleasures of the above-named artists (excepting Tamagno) at our Royal Italian Opera; also Signor Arditi, who appears to be idolised by the Chicagoans, and is occasionally mobbed in the streets by admirers bent on shaking hands with him.

While writing on operatic matters, I am reminded of the heavy loss musical has sustained by the untimely death of Signor Julian Gayarré, whose friendship I had enjoyed for twelve years. Born in the year 1843, of humble parents, he worked his way to the foremost rank in operatic art by assiduous study. Beginning life as a farm labourer, and subsequently working as an ironfounder, he found time for study, and the rich reward he attained should prove instructive to other working men. They cannot all become great tenors, but, instead of wasting their spare time in dissipation, they "improve each shining hour" of leisure by study of art, science, or literature, they are sure to be rewarded.

Gayarré was one of the most unaffected of men, free from the conceit and arrogance too often exhibited by his rivals. He was a generous critic of other artists, and one evening, when he shared my box at the opera, on the occasion of another tenor's début, he pointed out the best points in the débutant's performance, and urged me to give him a favourable notice. I refrain from giving details of his brilliant public career for want of space, but I wish to say that I have personal knowledge of his generosity to artists in distress, none of whom ever asked his aid in vain. Directly he began to earn a handsome income, he relieved his parents from any need of money, and to his dying day privately sustained them and also his brothers and sisters in the most liberal style.

It is characteristic of the simple-mindedness of the great tenor that he directed in his will that he should be buried in the rustic cemetery of the little village of Roncal, near Pampeluna, in the Spanish province of Navarre, where he was born. His remains were accompanied to the railway station by almost all the population, and the streets were crowded that the Civic Guards were required to clear the way for the funeral procession. No man has ever more honourably earned the admiration of art lovers and the affectionate esteem of friends than Julian Gayarré.

Miss Violet Cameron is a valuable accession to the "Cinderella" company at Her Majesty's Theatre, being the only one of the party who is entitled to be styled a vocal artist. Miss Minnie Palmer's voice production—especially her high notes—is faulty, but she is a very pretty and fascinating singer, and glances at the audience succeed in captivating most of them. Miss Violet Cameron is an accomplished musician, and her solos elicited peals of well-merited applause. How charmingly she acted the part of the Prince I need not say.

Miss Agnes Huntington may almost be described as a musical iconoclast. The part of Paul Jones, in Planquette's opera, was originally written for a tenor, but when my lamented friend, Carl Rosa, heard her sing he wished to engage her at once for the principal part in "Paul Jones." The part was knocked down from its original pedestal, and the fair mezzo-soprano became Paul Jones, with what brilliant results every one knows.

On Saturday next, January 18th, Miss Huntington will appear at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Mr. Slaughter's opera, "Marjorie." The original notation of the principal rôle has been knocked over on her behalf, and the barytone Earl will be impersonated by the bewitching mezzo-soprano. Of her success I have no shade of doubt.

When Canning's "needy knife-grinder" was asked by "the friend of humanity" to tell his "pitiful story," he replied, "Story? God bless you, I have none to tell, sir! I am in a similar predicament respecting accounts of recent concerts. I can give none, because there have been no recent concerts of the slightest importance. Mr. Arthur Chappell's announcement of the resumption of his Monday Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall, on the 13th instant is a refreshing indication of the opening of the concert season, and on the following Wednesday evening Mr. Boosey will give a London Ballad Concert at St. James's Hall.

It is gratifying to know that the greatest of all operatic conductors, Signor Piacini, will re-visit London next season, and will conduct several Italian operas at Her Majesty's Theatre. How splendidly he conducted the La Scala orchestra when he gave the "Onion" was produced at the Lyceum Theatre will not soon be forgotten. He and Signor Arditi are the only operatic conductors

who take care that the orchestra shall not over-power the vocalists.

I find in one of the Chicago journals the statement that Madame Albani is evidently bent on taking the place of Adelina Patti when the latter vacates the position of empress of prime donne. I shall not believe this until Madame Albani dyes her hair the colour of carrots.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Prince Albert Victor's sporting achievements in India lack lustre by the side of the wonderful bag just made by the German Emperor in Silesia. He is credited with having shot, in one day, 550 pheasants, seven hares, a rabbit, and "two other animals not specified"—let us say, a giraffe and a rhinoceros. Prince Hatzfeldt, his host, took part in the slaughter, and so, I suspect, did a good many other people on the spot. It would never have done to have allowed the young Kaiser to run the chance of making a small game. Poor sport, all the same, to knock over pheasants by the hundred.

It appears to be the indurated belief of some minds that because caged animals look quiet and unoffensive, any original sin of ferocity with which they were endowed must be eradicated. The keepers at the Zoo and at Barnum's wild beast show find the greatest difficulty in dissuading visitors from trying to become familiar with the lions, tigers, and other savage creatures. Down at Sunderland a foolish woman has just paid a heavy penalty for seeking to engage the affections of a wolf by the offer of an orange. It gripped her fingers, bit off two, and swallowed them with immense gusto, thus saying as plainly as could be, "Being a wolf, I naturally prefer human flesh to fruit."

A Yorkshire paper having indiscreetly expressed approval of poisoning rats with phosphorus, a correspondent shows how baneful the practice is. In the first place, it is quite a mistake to imagine that rats are the only animals which have a liking for the deadly drug. Cats and dogs will devour it whenever they get a chance, while children have been known to mistake it for sweetstuff. But even if phosphorus were only toothsome to rats, there would remain an insurmountable objection to its use. It does not kill on the spot, the poisoned rodents get away to die in holes, where their corrupting bodies make such a stench as necessitates the pulling up of the floor or whatever hides them from view. I was put to considerable expense in this way some years ago, owing to one of our servants having taken upon herself to wage war upon the mice by means of poison. Trapping is the only safe way of getting rid of rats and mice.

I see that Lord Clancarty's gamekeeper has shot a fine golden eagle, measuring seven feet from tip of wing, at Ballinacree in Ireland. One or two of the birds were lately shot here in England. I only wish they were more plentiful and less frequently shot. However, I believe that, owing to the orders issued by the owners of various large estates not to kill them, the golden eagles are not nearly so rare as they were at one time, when they threatened to rapidly become extinct. And, after all, the temptation to shoot one of these magnificent birds is a strong and manifold. He forms a splendid trophy, and generally obtains a paragraph in the newspapers on the one hand, while he does a great deal of harm to game and flocks on the other. Those who preserve him from harm, though, have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping to save a prominent member of our fauna from extinction, and have also the delight of seeing these noble birds in their wild and free life.

Mr. George Masters, of Newington Butts, seems to be very successful in managing fowls, and certainly seems to be able to make them pay, even though they are kept in London. He had seven hens and a cock in a run three feet wide by twenty feet long. Six of the fowls set and hatched pullets on the 7th of April, which commenced to lay on the 28th of September. From December 23rd, 1888, to the same date in 1889 my correspondent has had from his fowls 1,063 eggs. In Christmas week from his fourteen hens he had twenty-eight eggs.

W. Lock kindly writes to say that a green parakeet belonging to him, and which has been nine years in captivity, laid an egg last January and two more last week. We have had similar cases mentioned by several correspondents lately, and it does not appear to be uncommon for birds of the parrot tribe to act in this manner.

"Hulwidgeon" wishes to know with reference to albino animals whether the deficiency in colouring matter is not usually accompanied by a dulness of the senses, while black animals frequently seem to possess preternatural intelligence. I certainly believe that such is the case. White rats, for instance, of which I have had considerable experience, are not nearly as clever as their darker coloured brethren, nor even as piebald ones which have more colouring matter. In physical strength and activity the albino is certainly generally the inferior. It is a well-known fact that white cats are generally deaf, and, to again refer to the rats, that white rats almost invariably go blind after a few years. Black cats, too, are nearly always particularly active and strong in their movements. If any other correspondent could oblige us with further details or examples bearing on the most interesting subject, I am sure that we would all be very much obliged to him.

THE ACTOR.

The event of the theatrical week has been the death, sudden and yet not unexpected, of Dr. Western Marston, at one time a popular dramatist, but of late years an extinct volcano so far as dramatic work was concerned. On four occasions only has Dr. Marston come prominently before the present day public. One was when his last play, "Under Fire," was produced in London a few years ago, without, however, adding to his reputation.

Another was when Mr. Irving brought out "The Merchant of Venice" at the Lyceum, and had the pleasure of handing over to him the sum of £200 or so. Dr. Marston then made a little speech which was full of pathos and was well received. The third occasion was the revival of his "Favourite of Fortune" by the Dramatic Students. The performance was by no means a good one, and the author must have compared it very unfavourably with the representation originally given of his work.

The fourth occasion was the publication by Dr. Marston of his reminiscences of the stage, under the title of "Our Recent Actors." Here we have two volumes of delightful gossip and criticism. Dr. Marston has seen many interesting things and met many interesting people, and his recollections, admirably written, will be among the classics of the kind. The hearty reception accorded to them by press and public helped, I hope, to lighten and brighten the last days of one who had suffered many bereavements—who had seen his wife, daughters, and son all predecease him, and who had, consequently, but little to cling to in this world.

Another event of the week is Miss Amy Roselle's decision to give dramatic sketches at the Empire Theatre. Miss Roselle is at the front rank of our actresses, and the step she is about to take is proportionately important. She is not the first member of the histrionic profession who has appeared at a variety theatre. Mr. Collette has often appeared in the "halls" of late years, and Mr. William Farren, jun., I believe, is performing in them at the present time. But Miss Roselle is the first actress of position who has consented to give the part in variety entertainment, and she is to be honoured, I think, for her courage in making the innovation.

Mr. Charles Wyndham protests that he has

withdrawn "Forgiveness" from rehearsal at the Criterion, not because he has no faith in the piece, but because circumstances compel him to do so. The assurance will be implicitly accepted, and yet I think the withdrawal is a wise act on Mr. Wyndham's part. He himself might make the comedy a success, but I doubt if the present Criterion cast could do so. The plot is, as regards the latter half, very improbable and unsympathetic, and no amount of brilliancy in dialogue will nowadays make audiences accept a play whose characters are theatrical and non-human in their actions.

"Cyril's Success," which is now in rehearsal at the Criterion, likely to be any greater pecuniary triumph, I think yes; because, to begin with, it is by E. J. Byron, whose name is still a power, and because it contains, in addition to some excellent writing, a story which is generally interesting—in fact, very strong—from first to last. Young actors like Cyril are not usually very attractive, but his relations with his wife and Mr. Singleton Bliss give the necessary human interest to the play, and Matthew Pincher, the cynical critic, is very amusing.

When I last saw "Cyril's Success," poor Byron himself played Pincher, and very droll he was. The original impersonator of the part was "Little Clarke," afterwards came the elder Compton. The hero was first undertaken by Mr. W. H. Vernon, afterwards by H. J. Montagu, and, later still, by the late E. D. Ward. It is probable that before the piece is brought out at the "Cry," every legitimate effort will be made to shorten it in representation, for at present it runs to the length of five acts.

Mr. F. R. Benson is a bold man, or he would not "put up" "The Taming of the Shrew." How can he hope to sustain the comparison which is certain to be instituted between his production at the Globe and that of Mr. Daly, not so very long ago, at the Gaiety? An attractive Petruchio in my opinion, impossible; but what Katherine could hope to equal the splendid audacity and regal rage of Miss Ada Rehan? However, Mr. Benson is going to restore Bianca to her proper position in the play, and, for the rest, we shall see what we shall see.

GENERAL CHATTER.

That marvel of engineering skill, the Forth Bridge, is now practically finished, experimental trains having already run to and fro. Such is England's reply to the challenge given by France with her vaunted Eiffel Tower. That gigantic toy can never be of any real service to mankind, whereas the Forth Bridge will confer immeasurable benefits on the internal traffic of Great Britain. From the point of difficulty, too, it is altogether a grander achievement than the foolish tower which the Parisians have erected to their own glory.

Verily, hath the influenza clutched hold of merrie England; one scarcely ever enters a household without finding one or more members laid up. Having gone through a decidedly nasty attack myself, I am in sincere sympathy with each and every sufferer. My own experience goes to support the medical view that there is little or no danger provided proper precautions are adopted. Warm rooms, good living, and quinine are the best remedies, with a mild aperient occasionally to keep the internal machinery in proper working order.

It must not be assumed that the enormous increase of mortality at Paris is solely consequent upon this Russian scourge. The surroundings of life at that gay capital are no means as wholesome as they should be. Not only is the drainage imperfect, but the water consumed by the working classes never passes muster in London. Then, the multitudes of visitors from all parts of the world that were attracted to Paris by the Exhibition brought with them, no doubt, the seeds of many diseases. London, with her vast superior sanitary arrangements, should pass through the ordeal with comparative impunity. Many people will fall ill, no doubt, and those with broken constitutions may have a hard time of it; but the average man and woman have only to exercise reasonable caution to treat the disease as a febrile.

The mendicant tribe have already seized upon it as a new fulcrum to work the lever of imposture. Passing through a West-end square, I was accosted by a whining female of dissipated and repulsive aspect. Her touching tale was that her husband and six children were all at death's door with the "Russian influenza," without either food or medicine or money for their purchase. But when asked to describe the symptoms of the disease she hesitated, and then burst out with "Bad belly-ache, yer honour. They're all lying on the bed together, just doubled up with pain, as if they'd been poisoned."

The gas strikers complain that public opinion does not side with them as it did with the dockers. Quite true; it certainly does not. But should not that very fact help to convince the gas strikers that they have been in the wrong all along? Public opinion means the judgment of the community at large, and whenever this is practically unanimous, as is in the present instance, those against whom it is given may safely assume that their cause is hopelessly bad. The best thing the gas strikers can do is to look out for other employment. That ought not to be very difficult in the present buoyant state of trade.

The Daily Graphic is undoubtedly a success, the contents being both interesting, varied, and comprehensive, thus reflecting great credit on "the man at the wheel." The most unfavourable comment on the new journal which I have heard is that the bulk of the illustrations do not deal with current events, and would, therefore, better suit a weekly paper. That defect—if it be one—will, no doubt, be remedied later on. Every allowance should be made at the outset for an entirely new departure in journalism. Neither the liberality of outline, nor editorial energy, nor the hearty co-operation of all, can make up for the absence of experience.

The Prince of Wales is evidently determined to show that he observes a strictly neutral attitude in party politics. After entertaining Sir Henry James and other distinguished Unionists, he extended the hospitality of Sandringham to a select company of Home Rulers in the persons of Sir Charles Russell, Mr. Arnold Morley, and Mr. Henry Fowler. This is as it should be; the heir apparent would commit a profound mistake were he to identify himself with either party. All the same, I do not expect to see Mr. Parnell invited to Sandringham.

A Stock Exchange friend tells me that 1890 will be all record in the matter of new limited liability companies. He affirms that there are literally hundreds ready for launching, and only waiting until the Bank lowers the rate of discount. So be cautious, ye investors, and be sure you look these noble gift horses in the mouth before taking a mount. Some, perhaps many, will be bona fide concerns, but all experience goes to prove that wholesale swindling is an invariable accompaniment of every "boom" in company promoting.

What a monument of vaulting ambition is the Tirol Restaurant in the Strand! There stands the noble building, with its beautiful marble columns and imposing frontage, but that spectacle is all the return the shareholders have for their money. It is a great pity that they went ahead too fast with expenditure. Sooner or later, however, the money required to complete and furnish the structure will be forthcoming, and the Tirol will then become a profitable as well as an Alhambra, the Empire, and the Langham Hotel did after their initial disasters.

MR. WHEELER.

Those who acted on my autumn advice to put their machines during winter have abundant

cause to congratulate themselves. I do not believe that we have had half-a-dozen days since the beginning of November which were suitable for riding. Either the roads were as heavy as ploughed fields, or for days upon the land, or the rain it rained every day, or the mud had got frozen into ridges of a diabolical sort. There are, no doubt, a few maniacs who make light of these difficulties, and who go careering about in all weathers, flattering themselves that they are not as other men are. Quite true; otherwise Bodlam and Hanwell would have to be enormously enlarged.

A want having made itself felt for a lady cyclist club-house, several disinterested individuals, who chance to be connected with the trade, magnanimously offer to start an institution of the sort. I would strongly advise ladies, before becoming members, to push inquiry into the social position of the promoters. A club necessarily takes its character in large measure from that of its founder, and it is to be one of "the better sort," so will his offering be also. This is of little consequence in masculine clubs, but it would be a very serious matter for a lady to discover that she belonged to a club which included among its members some scarcely veiled specimens of the demi-monde. I do not say, of course, that there would be danger of this in the feminine clubs now in course of formation. My duty begins and ends with sounding a note of warning.

The gallant 90th Middlesex will, I predict, put a far stronger master in the field next summer than it has ever done yet. Numbers of promising recruits are joining, and I should not be surprised were the full regulation strength of the corps to be reached before spring. Those cyclists, therefore, who feel inclined to go soldiering on wheels should lose no time in sending in their applications, or they may be too late.

At a certain high school for girls, where athletics are much in vogue, the head mistress has established a "home-trainer" for the teachers and elder girls. They take to it readily enough, and many are the competitions between the young beauties. But having tasted this mock turtle, they now long for the real thing, much to the horror of the head mistress. She admits that the exercise is healthy and not unfeminine, but she cannot endure the idea of her lovely ones scurrying through the streets, perhaps pursued by a horde of admiring strikers, perhaps pursued by a horde of admiring strikers. Poor old lady! She should not have taken her ducklings to the water if she did not mean them to have a swim.

A cyclist just smitten by the hateful influenza was recommended by an enthusiast of the wheel to go for a hard ride. "The poison will work out of your pores, old boy," said the adviser with an assumption of perfect confidence. "By the time you get back there will not be a trace of it left of fever left in your body. The invalid tried the experiment at once, in the course of an hour or two he was brought back in a cab. Physical exhaustion had set in before he had gone half a dozen miles, and, being unable to keep going, he had dismounted and sat by the roadside until the cab fortunately came past. Result, a high fever, complete prostration, agonising rheumatism, and finally bronchitis.

A correspondent writes me a very common request; to give him an address in the choice and secluded of a second-hand machine. My only counsel is that which Mr. Pasch offered to persons about to marry—don't. That is, unless you are thoroughly up in all the details of construction, and can tell whether a machine has been "faked" for the market or not. Some secondhand goods are practically as good as when they first left the maker's hands, but the majority are more or less shaken, while in many instances the frictional parts have worn nearly out of their bearings. Unless, therefore, the buyer is an expert, he will find it the cheapest course, in the long run, to go to some maker of repute and give a fair price for a new machine.

Cyclists should certainly make a trial with the "new metallic tyre clips" just introduced by Messrs. Burgess, of 205, Mile End-road. They are the best thing of the sort that I have yet seen, and very much superior to copper wire, inasmuch as they cannot cut the tyre, and are calculated to last much longer. Any one can put them on in the course of a minute or two, and no appliance is needed beyond the fingers. The metallic clip passes right through the india-rubber, instead of over the surface, and is then bent tightly round the rim of the wheel, the end being passed through a slot in the other extremity, thus making all fast and rigid. So, far, well to good old copper wire; it has often been a most useful servant at a pinch, but now the time has come for the more scientific metallic clip to reign in its stead.

LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND.

A Pathetic Story.

A young woman named Evans told a pathetic story on Thursday at the Westminster Police Court. She was charged with disorderly conduct, having been found lying on the pavement outside the Rochester-row Station. She now said that she came to London a month ago to look for her husband, who deserted her and her children at Shrewsbury, where they were living last August. His age was 33, and he went off with a widow 35 years of age, who sold ginger beer at the factory where he was employed. Her home was sold up for the rent which was owing, and her friends in Gloucester took care of her children, a boy and girl, while she went in the infirmary, so that her chargeability might be the means of bringing her husband to justice. She heard nothing, and at last determined to set to London to search for him. One of the board of guardians gave her half a sovereign, and with this and 2s. 3d. she had by her, she came to the metropolitan police court and sought for her husband. She applied for a summons, but had no money to take it out, and could not give the woman's name. Mr. Sheil asked her if she would go to the workhouse.—The defendant, who seemed prostrated with grief and illness, said she did not want to do so. She had nothing to live for except her children.—Mr. Sheil: You can't walk about the streets homeless and destitute.—The defendant said when she went under remand the first time, Mr. Thomas, a gentleman connected with a charitable institution offered to pay her fare back to Gloucester. She declined the offer then, but now her object was accomplished she would gladly accept it. Still, she would rather have gone into a hospital—not the workhouse or prison—where she could be treated for her complaint. She had something the matter with her heart.—Mr. Sheil: But she would be looked after; otherwise she must be further remanded for a week.—After leaving the court she was permitted to sit by the fire in the gaoler's room, and Mr. Leal, the Church of England missionary, who frequently helps poor prisoners, interested himself with a view of assisting her.

Lamtorhey Park, near Bexley, the residence of Mr. E. Heilmann, a banker, has been broken into, and a rich booty secured. Amongst the articles stolen was a desk containing valuable documents. An entrance was gained by drilling holes through the window shutters.

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.—Influenza and Pains in the limbs are specially and agreeably cured by BARKLEY'S BALSAM. It is sold by all Chemists and Druggists, or by post from Barclay and BARKLEY, 24, Farringdon-street, London, for 10 stamps.—BARKLEY'S name on Government stamp is guarantee of genuineness.—LADY.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Moanings*.)

Walt-time-Dancing.

The real cause of English influenza has been found in the English public-houses.

It is not true that Her Majesty the Queen called to the President of the United States—"Americanism."

One has often heard of dog-fish, and now a piscatorial inquirer wants to know whether cat fish does not exist in the form of octo-puss.—Purr-haps it does.—Ed.

The Gladstone birthday presents consisted mainly of slippers and blankets. Judging from their gifts, the consensus of opinion among Mr. Gladstone's followers evidently points to his retiring. Will they have to send him a night-cap, as well as blankets and slippers, before he takes the hint? We notice that his Scotch admirers sent him some whisky, which was no doubt, as near to a night-cap as without hurting Mr. Gladstone's feelings, they liked to get.

(From *Punch*.)

EYE-MOON.—"How do you do, my little man? I'm your next-door neighbor, you know?"

"What's a neighbor?" "Well, which means night; that is, near, and—" "Oh, thank you, I know what that means!"

TAMER.—Second Groom (waiting at tea for the noons, and handing this bread and butter-sauce you): Clap two or three bits together, miss, then you'll get a bite!

THE DIVORCE SOR.—Private Inquiry Agent: Want a divorce, sir? Certainly, sir—certainly! Any evidence you may require ready at the shortest possible notice!

STUDIES IN REPARTS.—Algy (patronisingly): Ugly, Jim! What! you play the banjo? You lanky dog, you possess all the accomplishments I lack!—Jim (modestly): Oh, nonsense! Why, you're making me out a regular Crichton!

THE LION'S DANCE.—Both being caged up in this wooden box along with a boar-hound. Why a boar-hound? Is he supposed to look after me? I rather like that, if he is. Look after me!

I just with one touch of one of my forepaws I could smash him in half in a minute like two two.

And for the matter of that, that fellow with the whip, who imagines he keeps me in order by fixing his eyes on me. Yes, and the horse too, the whole three of them. But there's that bit of meat at the end of the performance, so I suppose I may as well appear to come "the docile highly-trained beast," and go through with the comolifer and collar it. "Snarl? Do I?"

Of course I do. It's the one outlet I have for my feelings. Why growl and snarl under the circumstances? Fancy me, the "king of beasts" (it sounds like chaff), dropping of a platform, at a given signal, on to the back of an idiotic circus horse, stared at through a lot of bars by a house packed full of applauding fools!

And we finish up by a scamper all round together that seems really to amuse them! What a come down for a lion! Learned pigs and educated bears are well enough, but they should know where to draw the line and stop at that!

I keep pretty quiet at present, because it pays, but the snarl of mine may end in a roar. By Jove! if it does, the boar-hound, and fellow with the whip had better look out for themselves, and that's all I've got to say about it at present.

MUSICAL NOTES.—When the oratorio of "Ninewell" is performed again, with incidents in the life of Jonah, one of the features will be a magnificent wall in a minor key. There is to be a banquet given to musical Dr. Turpin.

It was graceful on the part of the Archbishop of Canterbury that this excellent musician a doctor, the name of Turpin being more closely associated with York than Canterbury.

(From *Judy*.)

A MUSICAL HORSE.—Officious Horse Individual (who "knows a horse when 'e sees 'im," and who also "as a hear for music"): You're 'orse well soon fine the brass band, sir—Well (unconscious of his horse's slight infirmity): Brass band? What do you mean?—O. H. Individual: Why, can't you see that already 'e tootles a bit on the flute, 'at by the end of the season 'e'll be a case of combomb with 'im, an' no mistake!

SUITABLE.—She: Where do you get your suits from, Mr. D. F. He: That's a strange question! From the tailor, of course. Why do you ask?

She: Oh, they're generally so "loud." I thought you might get them from the gunsmith's.—He: Yes, I've heard reports about them.

HOW HAPPY COULD HE BE WITH EITHER.—"I have called, Mrs. Grain, to ask your permission to ask Miss Dot to be my wife." My daughter Dot? Why, Dot is engaged to Lord Forewig!

"Did you just say Miss Dot?" I said Miss Evangeline. Perhaps the dot—the er—similar-larity in the names caused—

AT-RISH-CHOO!—The newspapers are catarrh-waiving and expressing numerous theories on sneezology; but no treatise on the cause of relaxation of the mew-cuss membrane, for we all know its effect without desiring to learn the why or the wherefore. From the wheezy arguments of wise scribes it would seem that influenza is an influence, the thinking that the alarming apprehensions of the nervous are sufficient to unnerve us. They are at-rish-choo of untruths.

THE BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION.—They were talking about the recent revolution in Brazil. "Now that was what I call a revolution," said Parker, who is a Radical by persuasion; "the effete institution of monarchy was abolished without one drop of blood being shed." "You mean," rejoined Ford, whose language is not of the high flutiny order, "that no real revolution took place, and that the signs of an incipient revolution amongst the company."

THE TWO AUTOCRATS OF ST. PETERSBURG.—The Russian Czar and the influenza-czar.

A sharp return, as the warden remarked on receiving a sharper who had only been out three days.

(From *Fun*.)

"LET US NOT BURN IN IGNORANCE."—Hilda (who likes to know the meaning of things): What's this picture about, Aunt Rosalind?

Rosalind: It's Romeo at Juliet's balcony. Hilda: Who is Romeo, and who is Juliet?—Aunt R.: Two young lovers who were made very unhappy by their parents.—Hilda (quite realising the situation): Oh! I dare say it was because Juliet would sit at the open window without putting on her hat, and because Romeo tore his clothes in climbing up there to talk to her.

NOT TO BE CAUGHT.—Precocious Infant: I think grammar's very easy, mother. I know all about singular and plural. Frouf Mama: Do you, dear? That's very clever. Perhaps you can tell me the plural of cougar?—P. L. (after reflection): Why, lump, of course!

NUTS AND WHINE.—The revolution in Brazil hasn't been effected entirely with rosewater. We hear vaguely about "disturbances" over there. The crown has been broke, and before things settle down quite peaceful and comfortable like, no doubt a good many Brazil nuts will be cracked.

"The best place to see the 'Flight of Fancy'?" "Why, don't you know?" "At Barnum's?" "Barnum's, both!" "Well, Drury Lane? Her Majesty's, both!" "Not much. Go to a prize fight, and when the boys in blue show up, you'll soon see the flight of fancy. Tra-la-las, au reservoir!"

The Modern School for Scandal.—The board school.

Willing Rowing, a gas stoker, has been rowing with his wife, but she was not willing to submit to it. She said that he had too much gas altogether, and if he was on strike it was no reason why he should strike her. Fourteen days' absence of air.

"Well, I'm blown," as the ballerina remarked. (From *Funny Folks*.)

SOUND SENSE.—"Appy New Year, Mrs. Wiggins." "Hey?" "Appy New Year." "Hey?" "Appy New Year." "Oh, ah, yes, things is that, wuss luck—werry dear, werry dear, indeed."

"No, no, Mrs. Wiggins. I said 'Appy New Year.' 'An' where you're calling 'your dear,' I should like to know?" "It's 'your dear,' your dear, I said 'Appy New Year.' 'Oh, I beg your pardon, and thank kindly. I could just drink a drop of beer!'" "No, no, I said 'Appy New Year!'"

THE EPIDEMIC.

NOTHING SPREADS MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE PREVALENT EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA.—In our large office in Barclay Street, employing many clerks, the influenza has been spreading with the exception of one member of the staff, who has wisely fortified himself by a daily draught of Salt Regal.

In a sure, refreshing, health-giving tonic, the Salt Regal has been the means of escaping the epidemic, and in resorting to this saline tonic who have had preliminary symptoms have been able to escape the disease.

The Salt Regal is a preparation like it in the world. Sold everywhere, in 6d. and 3s. 6d. Prepared by Dr. Maltby.

SALT REGAL TONIC.—(Lancet.)

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From *The World*.)

The Queen has now decided that she will not open Parliament in person, and, considering the prevalent influenza, and the probability that the weather will be very cold, it is perhaps as well that her Majesty should not run the risk of catching a chill.

The Prince of Wales will be absent from England when the ceremony takes place, which is another reason which inclines the Queen to keep away, as unless the Duke of Edinburgh returned from Coburg there would not be one of her Majesty's sons with her on the occasion.

Among the numerous presents received about Christmas time by Mr. J. L. Toole, there was one which he will specially prize. It is a handsome gold box of the Louis Quinze period, with the recipient's initials traced in brilliant, as are those of the donor, his close and intimate friend, Henry Irving.

That the influenza is upon us there can be no manner of doubt. Meteorological authorities in France have suggested a theory that the comparative atmospheric stagnation caused by the absence of high winds during the autumn did much to encourage its development. It will be interesting to see whether Sunday's gale of wind coming from the south-west will have any effect in checking its spread. Meanwhile plenty of fresh air and outdoor exercise appear to be the best prophylactics.

The Admiralty are becoming seriously alarmed, and not before time, at the growing deficiency in the number of engine-room artificers and stokers necessary to keep the fleet properly effective. Men are daily, in the ordinary course of events, being pensioned off or invalided, and there are none coming in to supply the waste. The Steam Reserve, which, as their name implies, are supposed to be the resources always ready to be drawn upon in case of need, have been so drained that it is with extreme difficulty an ironclad can be commissioned. The Navy is suffering just now from the prosperity of the country. Trade is so good that men do not care to enter the Queen's service as long as they can get higher pay by stopping out of it. No fewer than four thousand men are wanted for the Navy, but to obtain anything like that number by voluntary enlistment in a hurry is as impossible in this as in any other country.

(From *Truth*.)

I have reason to believe that there is no truth whatever in the report, which has been widely circulated, that the Queen intends to pay a visit to Ireland this year.

Her Majesty has been very much vexed by the fire at Laeken, as the greater portion of Prince Albert's correspondence with his uncle, the late King of the Belgians, was destroyed. Prince Albert wrote at least once every week to King Leopold, and always very confidentially, discussing political, social, and personal matters with the utmost freedom.

The destruction of the late King's correspondence is really a loss to history, for he was in constant communication with most of the European celebrities of his time, the late Emperor William having been one of his most regular correspondents; but, of course, his papers could not have been published for many years to come.

Lord Salisbury is to go to the Riviera for three weeks as soon as he is well enough to undertake the journey, and he will probably stay at the hotel at Beaulieu, near Nice, and Lady Salisbury stopped for some time last spring.

Periodically we have at home some one who lifts up his voice against ballet girls' legs or low-cut evening dresses. As a matter of personal taste, I rather prefer for ballet girls a quantity of petticoats reaching nearly to the knee than the present habit of exposing almost the entire leg; whilst in respect to low evening dresses, if a girl has good shoulders I like to see them. At the same time, I know nothing more ugly than the fashion of cutting the dress exceedingly low behind, and exposing a vast surface of back. As to indecency, the entire matter is conventional. In that earthly paradise, the Garden of Eden, Eve wore no dress at all. In Turkey I have seen ladies who for the world would not show their faces, draw up their wide trousers and recklessly expose their legs. To the pure all things are pure.

I remember once having some conversation with the purveyor of the "fashings" in which ballet girls expose their legs. He explained to me how the legs—made, the artist sits on a tricot. He then marks where the leg is defective, and he has the tricot thickened at those places.

"Calves," he said, "give us the greatest trouble. Nature generally makes them wrong. They are either too high or too low, and we have to work in the calves so as to remedy this, and to make the ankles appear small." The artist told me that he made legs the fashion of society.

When can they wear your legs for? I said. "Well," he replied, "you see that their dresses might catch getting out of their carriages, and they like to be prepared for any accident of this kind." He further told me that he had a large practice in arms for gentlemen. It seems that those who have more sticks wear stuffed tricot under their coats to give themselves a manly and muscular look.

THE SCANDAL OF THE STREETS.

At Marlborough-street Police Court, Jane Smith, 32, of William-street, Notting Hill, was charged with annoying David Thomas, described as a secretary, of York-street, St. James's-square.

Mr. Thomas said that at about two o'clock in the morning he was returning from the Charing Cross Telegraph Office when Smith overtook him and demanded money, which he declined to give her. She then commenced to apply disgusting epithets to him and use shocking language. Seeing a constable not far off he called to him, and gave her into custody. Between Charing Cross and St. James's-square he was accosted no less than ten times. Just before the prisoner came up he had given an old beggar woman some coppers, and received in return a volley of abuse because it was not sufficient in his estimation.

Mr. Hannay, having been informed that the woman had already been convicted for a similar offence, sentenced her to fourteen days' imprisonment.

ONLY A PIPE.

As I sat in my chair one Christmas night, Something told me I should sure to be right, If I acknowledged the present—it was something white.

From my daughter Daisy.

"Not worth a penny," somebody said; But when all the children had gone to bed, That gift sent such thoughts into my head.

About my daughter Daisy.

And not she alone, but of a good few more, I had known and lost in the days of yore, As I held that present I thought more and more Of my daughter Daisy.

I wondered whether when I was grey and sad, She would ever forget her poor old dad, Or remember the present that once he had, From his daughter Daisy.

Many presents were given—well, you ought to have seen! Some were quite good enough to be sent to the Queen.

But the one most valued—and I know she's not mean— Was from my daughter Daisy.

"And what is this present you're talking about," I fancy you are quite ready to shout out, Well, if you won't listen—no way—got out, Except my daughter Daisy.

Only a long clay pipe; when I filled that bowl, The blue smoke wreaths seemed to comfort my soul.

And I thought I was very well off, on the whole, With my daughter Daisy.

W. H. P.

THE GARDEN.

(WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

Apples and Pears in Small Villa Gardens.

"T. B." wishes for information respecting the best kinds of apple and pear trees for a small villa garden, and as he desires trees that will not interfere too much with the vegetables, I should recommend him to plant espaliers, if he does not mind the first cost of the wire fence for their training.

A row of espaliers planted all along one side of his small kitchen garden would occupy but little space and the work of training would be interesting and not take up much time. Supposing he decided to adopt this course, the plot, being sixty feet long, will give room for four trees, two apples and two pears, as follows:—One apple (Manks codlin), and one (Worcester Pearmain); both are free bearers, are not bad for dessert, and are excellent cookers; one Williams' Bon Chretien pear and one Marie Louise pear. If my correspondent could afford the expense of the wire fence, then I should say plant four pyramids, the pears on the quince stock and the apples on the paradise.

The same kinds of apples will be suitable, but I should substitute Louise Bonne de Jersey for Marie Louise, as the latter will not do on the quince. It should be borne in mind that the paradise for apples and the quince stock for pears root close to the surface, and must be mulched with manure and watered freely in dry weather.

I am afraid the trees grafted on a free-growing stock would occupy too much of his small plot of ground, but if trained as espaliers the subduing effect of the training will keep the growth within bounds, and I should, for such a purpose, prefer the apples on the crab and the pears on the seedling pear stock. I have been thus explicit about stocks, as the question is a most important one.

Winter-flowering Heath.

"Florence H."—The specimen enclosed in your letter is the very prettiest free-flowering heath I have ever seen. It is a very light position, but where frost cannot reach it. The roots must be moist, but not sodden, and when the flowers fade pick off the seeds; and when the plant begins to grow the straggling shoots, if there are any, should be shortened back a little to keep the plant dwarf and bushy. In summer the plant will do better in the open air. If the plant ever becomes too dry it will probably die, as the roots are very fine and cannot bear extremes of either drought or dampness. A great care is required in the watering if the plant is to be kept in health.

Cost of Working a Garden.

"E. Devon," asks a somewhat difficult question, as so much depends upon the style of keeping, and the crops planted, and how the successional crops are worked. The following question is proposed:—Suppose a plot of ground, good soil, say half an acre, all used for vegetables, no fruit; what time should it take one man to work it in every way; manure close at hand? Ten and a half hours form a day, or sixty hours a week, here. Please say how many days or weeks in the total would be required? Assuming the land is good free working soil, as much of the land of Devon is, and that a good selection of vegetables forming a proper succession all through the season are provided from the 1st of March to the end of September, a man would find plenty of work on half an acre of land to keep him busy two days a week, or, say, sixty-two days. The other five months, one day a week, will be ample, or, say, eighty days for the whole year. I have known the same extent of land managed in less time where potatoes and other coarse vegetables are largely grown, but my estimate is for thorough working and regular cropping with all the vegetables and salads in season.

The Early Border.

Every garden, even the smallest, if the sun shines into it at all, should have an early border in a warm, sunny spot, with a slope to the south to catch the rays of warmth from the sun in February, to help on the early salads and vegetables. The soil must be deep and well manured, and should now be in condition, when the frost and snow disappear, to receive the seeds of early peas, carrots, radishes, and, a little later on, a few sets of the Ashleaf or some approved early kind of potato may be planted. It is a very easy matter to shelter these early crops in some way. In sowing early radishes and horn carrots, for instance, sow in four-foot beds across the border, and cover the beds with long straw. Only a thin covering should be applied, and the seed beds should be kept free from the straw, and let in the air and sunshine gradually at first, covering up again at night. In a few days uncover every fine morning, and cover again at night. Those who cannot attend to these little details had better wait till next month before they sow or plant.

Glass of Any Kind

will come in useful now for raising crops of early radishes, lettuces, and carrots, or bringing forward cauliflowers. Sealable pots should be brought into use for blanching sea-kale. Old tubs or crates will be useful for placing over strong roots of rhubarb to hasten its growth, either with or without a covering of warm manure. The latter, of course, will push things on immensely now.

A Cheap Kind of Hotbed

may be made by digging a trench in the ground, filling it with warm stable manure, treading it down, and then place on a covering, eight or ten inches in depth, of nice, mellow soil. Cover the bed with some glazed contrivance, and when the temperature of the soil has been raised, so called now be in condition, when the frost and snow disappear, to receive the seeds of early peas, carrots, radishes, and, a little later on, a few sets of the Ashleaf or some approved early kind of potato may be planted. It is a very easy matter to shelter these early crops in some way. In sowing early radishes and horn carrots, for instance, sow in four-foot beds across the border, and cover the beds with long straw. Only a thin covering should be applied, and the seed beds should be kept free from the straw, and let in the air and sunshine gradually at first, covering up again at night. In a few days uncover every fine morning, and cover again at night. Those who cannot attend to these little details had better wait till next month before they sow or plant.

Cutting Down Clematis and Passion Flowers.

"Honiton."—The effect of cutting down clematis and passion flowers is to strengthen the young shoots breaking away by concentrating the growing force, and this is a good way of giving strength to weakly plants. Strong plants may not require this cutting down treatment; merely shortening back last year's shoots will be sufficient, thinning out all weakly growths. A top-dressing of turfy loam mixed with equal portions of very old stable or cow manure may be given now, and just before the plants come into blossom give liquid manure made from any kind of artificial.

ADAM.

THE STRAND IMPROVEMENT.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee of the Strand Board of Works upon the London County Council was adopted at the meeting of the board on Wednesday afternoon. It says:—"Your committee desire to call special attention to the fact that it is impossible in the case of this scheme that any new and valuable frontage can be obtained by the widening of the Strand, as in the case of the Shaftesbury Avenue improvement, inasmuch as the London County Council must purchase both sides of Holywell-street to effect the improvement, and in no case will it be possible for any owner to obtain a frontage to the Strand which he does not now possess. In consequence of the improvement the London County Council become the sole owners of the new frontages on the north side, while the south side is deteriorated in value. Your committee are of opinion that an improvement in this locality has been long called for in the interests of the metropolis as a public improvement."

Fare to All.

If you are suffering from any disease or ailment, I will send you a prescription for its cure. Dr. Mouton, Limited, Importers of Electric Light, 10, Old Broad-street, London, W.C. (Lancet.)

A DAYLIGHT GHOST.

The volume of the proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, just issued, contains the following "well-authenticated" story by a contributor signing his name "F. G. Boston." He says:—

In 1867 my only sister, 18 years of age, died suddenly in St. Louis. My attachment to her had been very strong. A year or so afterwards I became a commercial traveller. I had "drummed" the city of St. Joseph, Mo., and gone to my room at the Pacific House to send in my orders, which were unusually large ones, so that I was in a very happy frame of mind indeed. My thoughts, of course, were about those orders, knowing how pleased my house would be at my success. I had not been thinking of my late sister in any manner reflecting on the past. The house was high noon, and the sun was shining cheerfully into my room. While busily smoking a cigar and writing out my orders, I suddenly became conscious that some one was sitting on my left, with one arm resting on the table. Quick as a flash I turned and distinctly saw the form of my dead sister, and for a brief second or so looked her squarely in the face; and so sure was I that it was she that I sprang forward in delight, calling her by name, and, as I did so, the apparition instantly vanished. Naturally I was startled and dumbfounded, almost doubting my senses; but the cigar in my mouth, and pen in hand, with the ink still moist on my letter, I satisfied myself I had not been dreaming, and was wide awake. I was near enough to touch her, had it been a physical possibility, and noted her features, expression, and details of dress, &c. She appeared as if alive. Her eyes looked kindly and perfectly natural into mine. Her skin was like that of a young girl, and her hair was as soft as silk, and on the whole, there was no change in her appearance other than when she was alive. Now comes the most remarkable confirmation of my statement, which cannot be doubted by those who know what I state actually occurred. This visitation, or whatever you may call it, so impressed me that I took the next train home, and in the presence of my parents and others I related what had occurred. My father, a man of rare good sense, and very practical, was inclined to ridicule me, as he saw how earnestly I believed what I stated; but he, too, was amazed when later on I told them of a bright red line or scratch on the right hand side of my sister's face, which I distinctly had seen. When I mentioned this, my mother rose trembling to her feet, and nearly fainted away, and as soon as she sufficiently recovered her self-composure, with tears streaming down her face she exclaimed that I had indeed seen my sister, as no living mortal but herself was aware of that scratch, which she had accidentally made when doing some little act of kindness after my sister's death."

A MYSTERIOUS DOCUMENT.

A respectable-looking man, who carried a small brown paper parcel, applied to Mr. Bridge, at Dalton Police Court for advice. He said he had been an agent on commission, and his employers, after allowing this commission to get considerably into arrears, had asked him to vary the agreement under which he worked.—Mr. Bridge: What was the agreement?—Applicant: I cannot tell you, sir; because I am under a penalty of £50 not to divulge what it is. He is in this paper; will your worship look at it?—Mr. Bridge: Then you would immediately divulge it. You had better consult a solicitor.—Applicant: I thought your looking at the document as a matter of equity would make no difference.—Mr. Bridge: It would be a breach of your agreement if you showed it to me, and might damage you very much.—Applicant: They owe me quite £100, and I cannot get to see the manager or the board, and because I complained they suspended me.—Mr. Bridge: You had better go to a solicitor.

While a woman was giving an orange to some wolves in a menagerie at Sunderland, one of the animals sprang at her hand, and bit off two fingers, which it devoured.

MR. W. H. SMITH'S OPINION

OF HARNES' ELECTROPATHIC BELT AND TREATMENT.

H writes as follows:—"Dear Sir, In May last I commenced to wear one of your Electropathic Belts for a disorder of the liver and nervous dyspepsia, and my health has very much improved since. Dr. J. T. Meach, surgeon, in this year tells me he wants to get one of these belts for himself." Yours truly, W. H. Smith.

"Park Avenue, Oswestry."

If people feel weak and nervous they should wear Harnes' Electropathic Belt. It is guaranteed to generate a mild, invigorating, continuous electric current, without painful or dangerous shocks. It will effectively restore impaired vitality, strengthen the nerves and muscles, and speedily promote the strength of the entire frame. It has restored thousands to health and vigour after all other remedies (so-called) have failed. For particulars, book of testimonials, or advice, apply at once to the Medical Battery Company (Limited), 22, Oxford-street, London, W. Pamphlets and advice may be had, free of charge, either personally or by letter. All communications are received as strictly private and confidential, and should be addressed to Mr. C. B. Harnes, the President of the Company.

WORTH MAKING A NOTE OF.

The Largest Medico-Electric Institute in the World is at 22, Oxford-street, London, W. (corner of Rathbone-place), where every form of Electropathic Belt, Battery, and other health appliances is kept in stock, for the treatment and cure of Nervous and Rheumatic Affections, Liver and Kidney Disorders, &c. The Medical Battery Company (Limited) are the sole proprietors of this palatial establishment, which is known as the Electropathic and Zander Institute (Mr. C. B. Harnes, President). It is elegantly fitted with Electric Baths, Steam Machines, Electro-Massage Rooms, Electrolysis Rooms (where superfluous hairs are painlessly removed by electricity), and a large number of beautiful treatment rooms, where the Company's Physicians, Surgeons, Medical Electricians, Lady Superintendent, and other officers examine and advise patients fully free of charge. There is also a special room set apart for Rupture sufferers, another for the treatment of Corns, another for the cure of Throat and Chest Affections by Chemical Inhalation, and another for the treatment of Deafness by Electricity. One of the largest and best furnished rooms in the building is fitted with over fifty of Dr. Zander's Swedish Mechanical Exercise Machines for assisting the cure of such diseases as Writer's Cramp, Curvature of the Spine, Stiff Joints, Rheumatism, &c. The entire building is open to free inspection daily, and applicants can see Mr. Harnes' Electropathic Belts scientifically tested any day between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. (Saturday 4 p.m.). Those who are unable to call at 22, Oxford-street, London, W., are invited to make a note of the address, and write for pamphlets (free) before they forget it.

THE BATTLE OF LIFE.

The voluminous correspondence recently appearing on this important question in the "Daily Telegraph" shows how interesting the subject is to the general public, and as so much depends upon health in the "Battle of Life," we wish to draw attention to the fact (not generally known) that, besides the enormous sale of Mr. Harnes' Electropathic Belts, the most perfect form of Electro-Massage treatment is also carried on under skilled medical supervision by experienced certificated Masseuses and Masseuses at the Electropathic and Zander Institute, 22, Oxford-street, London, W. This palatial building, which is situated at the corner of Rathbone-place, is the largest and most complete Medico-Electric Institute in the world, and contains the best electrical machines and appliances that science has produced for the cure of nervous and rheumatic affections, liver and kidney disorders, &c. A personal visit would astonish and delight all who are interested in the treatment of disease by Electricity, Massage, Swedish Mechanical Exercises, Chemical Inhalation, &c. At this spacious medical establishment rupture, deafness, and corns have also been successfully treated for many years past. Consultation and advice may be had free of charge, either personally or by letter. Address, Mr. C. B. Harnes, President of the Medical Battery Company, Limited, 22, Oxford-street, London, W. All communications are received as strictly private and confidential. Note.—All in search of health should wear one of Harnes' Electropathic Belts. Guaranteed genuine. Pamphlets free on application.

ROYALTY.

CAMBRIDGE MUSIC HALL,

gap into manager and chairman and convenor. The Assembly, as the Assembly, is a body of men. The Assembly will be closed, when Mr. Irving will deliver an address to the members of the Wolverhampton Literary and Scientific Society, of which he is president.—The Twelfth Night celebration of the cutting of the Baddeloy cake was this year observed with even more than ordinary hospitality and festive ceremony by Mr. Augustus Harris at Old Drury, where from 10 to 12,000 invited guests were regaled with choice viands and music. The merry lasted well into the small hours, when the merry company were "left dancing."—Ever the prevailing influenza serves to verify the proverb that "it is an ill wind which blows nobody good," for the invaliding of principals such as Mrs. Bernard Boere and Mr. Frederick Leslie, gives their under-studies the longed-for opportunity of asserting their claims. Miss Jerome's new comedy company, in which Mr. Penney, Miss G. Kingston, and the new actress, Miss Cissy Grahame, will appear, is already in rehearsal at Terry's.—The ominous frequent burning of theatres, the latest of which occurred last Monday at Brussels, should tend to make the authorities having the regulation of our public places of amusement stricter than ever in enforcing the amusement entrusted to them by law for the protection of life from fire and panic. A recurrence of such a catastrophe as occurred at Vienna, Paris,

A DRAMATIC CLUB AND ITS SCENERY.

A HYPNOTISED LADY ATTACKED BY LIONS.

A CLERGYMAN'S EXTRAVAGANCE

GAS STOKERS CHARGED WITH

JUVENILE MURDERERS.

At the Seine Assizes, three youths, who the names of Ribot, Jeanmoutur, and Pille were charged with the murder of Madame Kallou, owner of a house in the Boulevard des Capucines, said they were not a dramatic correspondents' case; it was not a dramatic case, but worthy as a striking example of depravity and precocious wickedness of the youths of the lower classes in Paris. The authors of this crime are respectively 17, 21 years old, and had long previous to its perpetration lived by the most disreputable and plebeian robbery and nocturnal plundering citizens at work every day or so since July last that the three villains concerted the murder. They imagined poor old creature would, on the 15th of July collected the quarterly rents of the houses that it would be an easy matter for them to turn their hands on the money. Two of them, Ribot and Jeanmoutur, entered the concerns of finding her alone, and she was killed by her third criminal, named Pille, who went outside. The murder was perpetrated astonishing rapidly, and without a cry uttered by the victim. The murderers, however, disturbed before they could gain money by the servant of one of the tenants came in to chat with Madame Kallou, and she was shot dead. In court of acquittal, condemnation, each seeking to lay all the guilt upon the other. The trial concluded.

A Lively Meeting.

FAITH HEALING SO-CALLED.

that he was a mission agent, and a

answer to a jurymen, the doctor said he had never known to believe that life might have been

SHAM SANITARY INSPECTOR

PICKPOCKETS AT BARNUM'S.

A strike is threatened at the Festinio

quarries, the men demanding an increase of per cent., owing to the advance in the slate.

beautiful dresses à la Tosca!
 ...all this week. The T

SUNNY SLIPS ON THE ST

"DRUNK EVERY NIGHT

A TOO-PERSISTENT L

Mrs. Southworth, the young

November shot and killed Mr. Pettus as he was walking to his office in New York where he had been in the Tombs Prison, where she was a trial. She had accused Pettus of ruining her life and tried to persuade the public that she was much injured and much wronged woman. The facts have recently transpired tending to show that the man was not so black as he was painted and that the woman was a disappointed mail-order customer.

. Macdonald, M.P., held an inquest at 8

GERM LIFE

and in other epidemics incidental to mankind, w

Best health in civilized communities is an

HOW IT CAN BE DONE.

A specific which, the foregoing offices being performed

Add to the foregoing the property of absolute safety

TEST THEM FREE ON CHABON

People," and we will at once send the samples a stamp nor an addressed envelope, but write your address plainly. If possible, include "Malaria" on

INFLUENZA!

LISTEN to the Advice of Physicians; listen to

to ward off an attack of ill
than STERN'S PUMIL

DR. MORELL MACKENZIE says:— "It
IS AN INVALUABLE REMEDY."

patient so much relief a
PUMILINE."

few drops taken on sugar,
venient vehicle."

STERN'S PUMILIN LINIMENT, for

THE HOME USES OF PUMILINE. Drop

the proprietors for the admirable paper on the "Home Uses of Famulins" will be sent free on application. It contains full directions, and will empty the trouble.

G. AND G. STEAD, G. Goss's Invented, London, W.

HOUSING OF THE POOR.

At a meeting of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors of Great Britain, held on Saturday at the Carpenters' Hall, London Wall, an important address was delivered by the Rev. A. Robins, M.A., chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, on the "Human Home for the Poor—the Question of the House." Mr. Robins, who presided, read a letter of regret at inability to attend from the Bishop of Bedford, Lord Cross, Cardinal Manning, and others. Mr. Ritchie, the President of the Local Government Board, wrote that he was glad to learn that the association had under consideration a subject of such vital importance as the provision of proper dwellings for the working classes. The question was one on which it was very desirable that strong and sound public opinion should be formed, in order that all effect might be given to existing requirements of the law as set forth in the circular which he had recently addressed to local authorities. The lecturer asserted that they could not civilise, humanise, or Christianise where there were slums. They had to fight with the infamous indifference of those who by their own infinite selfishness brutalised millions. This language was severe, but it was not too strong. A criminal it was; criminal in the Church that did not both condemn and forbid; criminal in the nation that suffered such things to be; criminal all round in the cold and callous indifference with which a whole country, unmoved, consigned such a vast proportion of its poor to a living death. (Cheers.) There were millions perishing this moment throughout England's slums. Confession was an ugly word, and it had an ugly sound, however delicate they might affect to put or pronounce it, but this great question of the housing of the poor had too long been chilled by indifference, silenced by interest, or paralysed by unconcern. The most which in the markets was unscrupulously offered for sale that was not fit for human food was condemned and confiscated. There had been hesitating, half-hearted measures enough. There had been a deal too much temporising, whilst some municipalities minced matters with the worst moral offenders, and certain vestries were very tender in dealing with some of the worst offenders. Why should not infamously bad houses be offered for human habitation, and which were not fit for human homes, be condemned, and either mended or ended? The inhuman homes of England's poor filled our prisons and poor houses. It was as shamefully true at the close of the nineteenth century in almost every city, town and village of Great Britain as it ever was, that the houses of Dives were better stabled and his dogs much better kennelled than were Lazarus and his fellow sufferers. (Cheers.) The truth was that the demolition was so dreadful and complete that most men who got within its insidious influence, were too dazed to be able to deal with it; and it was impossible to deny that there were any physical, moral, and social evils of our times that were of much more profitable and lucrative concern to so many selfish and unconcerned principal interests. There were 50,000 families in London, each only occupying one room. (Cries of "More.") At the risk of being regarded as a visionary born out of due time, the speaker declared that according to his conviction—founded on a wide experience—of what must come, nothing less would avail than a simple and complete consolidation of all Acts affecting the public health, substituting throughout that which was obligatory and compulsory, for that which was now permissive and discretionary. (Cheers.) All medical officers of health must be his Majesty's medical officers of health, appointed to, and set over a city, town, or district, and that they might be thoroughly disinterested, impartial, and independent, they would be disqualified from taking any private practice. All sanitary inspectors would then belong to her Majesty, holding their appointments direct from the Local Government Board, and responsible only to the authorities at Whitehall. (Cheers.) He concluded by stating that there must be salvage of the social wreckage that was floating round about us before it was engulfed in the deep waters of demoralisation and death. A vast proportion of the dwellings of the poor were morally, socially, and physically slaughter-houses. A discussion followed, and a vote of thanks to the lecturer terminated the proceedings.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES TO JUVENILES.

On Saturday a full audience of young people and their elders were present in the theatre of the Royal Institution to hear the fourth of Professor Rucker's popular lectures on electricity, in which many of the characteristic phenomena of electric currents were illustrated by the help of the electric light, the screen, the electrocopes, vacuum tubes, and a wide range of other scientific appliances. Among the chief of the experiments, some of which were very beautiful, was a reproduction of the effect of a vacuum tube, and by which he demonstrated that a body charged with electricity would have its charge removed on the application of flame. The process of electrolysis by which lead in chemical combination with liquids was decomposed by the electric current, and driven to either pole in a curious and visible fern-like growth, and some beautiful phenomena showing the effect of passing the current through vacuum tubes charged with gases, and liquids, and the effect of the vacuum on the condensation of the vapour of water. The condenser invented by the famous Warren de la Rue, having a capacity of 425 micro-farads, or 5,600 Leyden jars, although occupying but an infinitesimal portion of the experiment table, was employed in these experiments as well as the vacuum tubes of the same inventor. The bright blue flame, characteristic of hydrogen, the green of carbonic acid, the red of common air (due to the nitrogen it contains), the striated and serrated lines of light given off by the after-glow of hydrogen, and the sulphur, the after-glow of oxygen, and above all, an enormous long spark sent through a vast exhausted tube, were all the subject of both interesting and beautiful demonstrations. The concluding portion of the lecture thoroughly charmed the young auditors, and it was very frequently interrupted with salvos of applause from them.

Advices received on Saturday from Montrose state that Mr. Spurgeon is in better voice and stronger. Mr. Miller, 20, described as a waterproof manufacturer, was fined 20s. and costs at the West Ham Police Court on Saturday for assaulting James Allen, a labourer. On Saturday night a Birmingham publican, named Peacock, entered a den of three lions at Wombwell's menagerie, Birmingham, to decide a wager. He remained with the beasts ten minutes. A violent storm passed over West Cork on Saturday evening, doing much damage to property. The streets were strewn with slabs from the tops of houses. On Saturday the East London coroner was informed of the death of Grace Cox, aged 82, a widow, lately residing at 30, South-lane, Poplar, who expired suddenly on Friday without having had any previous medical attention. The death of Mr. W. Gilbert, father of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the distinguished dramatist, was announced on Saturday. He made for himself a considerable literary reputation before his son began to write. On Saturday Mr. Barker was informed that Louise Murphy, aged 73, the widow of a dock labourer, lately residing at 3, John-place, Poplar, had expired suddenly without having had any previous illness.

"The Unemployed in East London."—At a time when thousands are being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than 2,000,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased of unfortunates consumers in the country, to the great injury of our own working people, so true it is that the sale of matches is a great evil. It is a fact that if all consumers would purchase British and make matches, that firm would be enabled to sell 2,000,000 worth more in the year. (Applause.)

THE VOLUNTEERS.

1st Middlesex Engineers.

On Saturday night, at the Horsehoe Hotel, the annual dinner of the non-commissioned officers of the 1st Middlesex Engineers, was held under the presidency of the Regimental Sergeant-major Barrow, the president of the mess. Among the guests were Colonel Gardiner, Lieutenant Clifford, Bandmaster Wheatley, and a number of veterans of the corps, and Corporal Blake, who has the honour of holding the position of oldest Volunteer of the combatants now remaining in the battalion. Sergeant-major Barrow, in responding to the toast of "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," said he had spent the best part of his life in the regular service, and had seen many of its phases. Changes had been many, and there had been tinkering with its constitution, but there was one thing he felt sure they would never be able to tinker out of existence, and that was the stamina and pluck of the officers and men composing the Army. With regard to the Volunteers their quality was too well known for it to be necessary for him to dilate upon, but there was one change he would like to see introduced into it. It ought to be considered the duty of every young man to give some kind of service to his country, and if that were made the rule it would be possible to make service in the Volunteers a duty, instead of being, as now, an entirely optional kind of service. Colonel Gardiner proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Non-commissioned Officers." "It had been his experience during a long service with the corps that the best non-commissioned officers of the different companies were always those who best supported the non-commissioned officers' mess. He thought the non-commissioned officers, as the backbone of any battalion, ought to have every possible opportunity of meeting in gatherings for social and regimental purposes. He knew from many years' experience that the success of any military work undertaken, whether camping, marching, or manoeuvring, nearly always depended upon the non-commissioned officers, and he was of opinion that if officers could be allowed to reside in the service up to the age of 65 the same privilege ought to be allowed to sergeants who showed that they had still good work left in them. He regretted to say that this would probably be the last time he would have the opportunity of proposing that toast, for his term had drawn very near to its close. He would therefore say that he proposed it with special fervour. He coupled the toast with the name of Sergeant King, the secretary of the mess. Sergeant King having responded, Lieutenant Clifford was called upon to respond to the toast of "The Officers of the 1st Middlesex." The toast being proposed by Bandmaster Wheatley. The proceedings were continued with songs and recitations, Bandmaster Wheatley, Staff-sergeant Smith, Company Sergeant-major Johnstone, Sergeants Cooper and Friedrich, and other gentlemen contributing effectively to the evening's enjoyment.

FATAL DUEL BETWEEN JOURNALISTS.
A fatal encounter took place at Nonsuch (Hungary), on Saturday, between M. Tomies, editor of the *Zastava*, and M. Dimitriev, of the *Branki*. A polemic had been carried on between the two journals for some time past, and so incensed were the two editors against each other, that M. Tomies, on seeing M. Dimitriev at the railway station, publicly insulted him. A duel followed, in which M. Dimitriev was so grievously wounded that he expired almost immediately.

ARCHDEACON FARRAR ON MISSIONS.
On Saturday afternoon the Ven. Archdeacon Farrar delivered at Westminster Abbey, at the close of the three o'clock service, the first of four lectures on missions. Speaking on the "duty of missions," he said certainly there was great need in the Church of God for a re-awakening on that subject. Take all the churches in the province of Canterbury, there were one-third of the churches which contributed absolutely nothing towards foreign missions; and, taking all the churches of London, with its enormous and ever-increasing wealth, no less than one-fourth contributed absolutely nothing to foreign missions. The whole amount contributed was not more than two pence per head of the population—the price of a single pint of beer. There were many objections raised against missions, but they really were reasons in favour of missions. It was often urged that the gospel was not adapted for any but Western races, but the history of the Church proved that the gospel was gladly received by every nation and race who once understood its message. Another objection was, that if God wanted the heathen converted He would do it Himself, but it was an absolute law of God never to do for man what man can do for himself, and never to give to man what man can get for himself. In conclusion, he urged upon them all to aid, either by word or contributions, in the great and manifold duty of missions.

FIRE IN LONDON.
A destructive fire was caused at half past three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, through a spark from a fire grate, at 39, Praed-street, Paddington, on premises occupied on the ground floor by Mr. E. Day, harness maker, and on the first floor by W. Hanson, lodger, and on the second floor by H. Damsell, lodger. The shop and back room on the ground floor were a mass of flames when the firemen arrived from Hermitage-road, and although a stand-pipe was set to work this part of the premises was nearly ruined, while the rest of the house of eight rooms and the contents suffered by heat, smoke, and water. Mr. Day was insured in the Union, but the lodgers were not insured.

On Saturday Mr. Wynne Baxter received information of the death of Richard James Ellis, aged 40, a dock labourer, of 12, Eastwood-street, Bromley, who died suddenly on Friday, before a doctor could be procured.

On Saturday an inquest was held on the body of Harold Ernest Whorlow, aged 8, whose mother is in custody for murdering him at West Green. Three jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the mother.

On Saturday, at the conclusion of an inquest held by Mr. Wynne E. Baxter at St. George's-in-the-East Vestry Hall, one of the jurors was arrested as he was leaving by two City detectives and taken away in custody. The nature of the charge did not transpire.

On Saturday the man, William Row, who had given himself into custody at Newcastle on the charge of murdering Lily McCarra Wilson, the woman with whom he lived, was brought before the magistrates and remanded. The prisoner sobbed while in the court.

On Saturday the Local Government Board for Ireland decided that boards of guardians can, in case of poor persons being bitten by mad dogs, take legal proceedings, and defray the costs out of the public rates.

On Saturday Commander Field, Staff-sergeant Richardson, Engineer James, and six others called at the Admiralty, and at once commenced their task of recruiting 500 engine-room artificers and 1,500 stokers for the Royal Navy. They will first recruit from London, and then visit the large towns.

On Saturday the police reported that a fisherman while punting on the Thames off Trickerham discovered, floating in the water, the body of a well-dressed elderly man. The face was frightfully battered.

How does a little "Petrolite" improve the washing hour? It gathers grease all the time. From all that it does its power. How shall it do its work? Mary's Petrolite Soap Works, a speciality in soap-making and re-creating. See our advertisement in the "People" for the week ending 12th January.

ARMY STATIONS FOR JANUARY.

(When two places are mentioned, the last-named is that at which the depot is stationed.)
1st Life Guards, Windsor; 2nd Life Guards, Windsor; 3rd Life Guards, Windsor; 4th Life Guards, Windsor; 5th Life Guards, Windsor; 6th Life Guards, Windsor; 7th Life Guards, Windsor; 8th Life Guards, Windsor; 9th Life Guards, Windsor; 10th Life Guards, Windsor; 11th Life Guards, Windsor; 12th Life Guards, Windsor; 13th Life Guards, Windsor; 14th Life Guards, Windsor; 15th Life Guards, Windsor; 16th Life Guards, Windsor; 17th Life Guards, Windsor; 18th Life Guards, Windsor; 19th Life Guards, Windsor; 20th Life Guards, Windsor; 21st Life Guards, Windsor; 22nd Life Guards, Windsor; 23rd Life Guards, Windsor; 24th Life Guards, Windsor; 25th Life Guards, Windsor; 26th Life Guards, Windsor; 27th Life Guards, Windsor; 28th Life Guards, Windsor; 29th Life Guards, Windsor; 30th Life Guards, Windsor; 31st Life Guards, Windsor; 32nd Life Guards, Windsor; 33rd Life Guards, Windsor; 34th Life Guards, Windsor; 35th Life Guards, Windsor; 36th Life Guards, Windsor; 37th Life Guards, Windsor; 38th Life Guards, Windsor; 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the Machines at twelve of their Principal Refreshment Bars and Restaurants, and orders have been received for the

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shares will be entitled to the Vendors in part payment of the purchase money.

ISSUE OF THE SHARE CAPITAL in part, payable 5s. per share on Application, 5s. on balance on allotment, 5s. on receipt after allotment, and the balance on a date to be fixed by the Directors, with at least one month's notice of call.

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 Clapham Park, Clapham, St. Symon, and Palace Chambers,

WILLIAM HUDSON, Esq. of Messrs. William Hudson and
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Colonel **FRANCIS ANTHUS** **STURGEON**, Chairman
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S. V. KEMP, C.B. (late and senior to Messrs. Spiers and
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* **ALGERNON JACKSON**, Esq. (Messrs. Farrow and Jacht
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(Managing Director).
* Will join the Board after Allotment.
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THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK (Limited), 25, Thamesmeade-street, London, E.C., and its Branches.

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Messrs. WASH. FIELD, and WITHERS, 12, Queen-street, Caspalee, E.C.

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SECRETARY (per telegram): **Mr. HENRY GODBOLD.**
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ARTIFICIAL FRUITFULNESS
FRUITFUL CONCEPTION—The result of driving for the
 1. Great Britain and Ireland the Patents owned by the
 vendors for manufacturing and supplying in bottles, or by a
 Comtee Français on Druggists, of a new and improved
 Artificial Fruitfulness, which is a new and improved
 (saccharine), saturated with liquid natural carbonic acid gas, as in
 minimum price; while in quality, in purity, and in sensation, the
 Artificial Fruitfulness is equal to the natural fruitfulness of the
 water, and to Nature's standard, i.e., to natural mineral
 water—than any artificial water yet produced.
 The Patents are especially valuable for the following
 reasons:
 1. To Save Power Required for driving the machinery.
 2. No skilled Labour of any kind necessary for the successful
 and working.

4. The aerated water produced is of the highest possible quality, all the cost of production is less than one penny per gallon done.

5. The thorough aeration of the water is so rapid that it is possible to aerate a gallon of water in a bottle and to make it in less than five minutes by the smallest class of machine.

6. The Natural Carbonic Acid Gas being pure, the aerated water is of the same quality as that obtained from natural sources, wines, or sprouts.

Owing to the small space (1 ft. by 1 ft.) required for working the apparatus, it is well adapted for use in restaurants, hotel, and board ship. Besides the better quality and cheaper price of the water produced, a great saving would be effected in fridges, ice-chests, and storages of bottles, casks, &c., and in cooling houses of all kinds.

Sets of the apparatus have already been sent at the following prices:

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week, \$15 to \$20, a net gain is shown to the retailer of 10 to 15 cents per week, after paying rental of apparatus, less the cost of the water, and a new supply of water at the rate of \$16 to \$20 to the retailer, and the first cost of aerated drinks to him.

If only 6,000 machines be fitted up, and basing the calculation on the lowest computation of a house selling only one gross of the profit accruing to this Company would be \$44,500 per annum, which would of itself be sufficient to pay nearly 60 per cent.

These estimates of profits apply only to the County of Hamilton for serving the aerated waters on draught. A larger return may also be expected by the Company from the rental and sale of machinery for aerating and bottling the waters. The Company will be in a position to develop a large trade in this direction.

The price to be paid by the Company for the whole of the Patents and many subsequent improvements is £20,000, payable in cash, and the balance thereof in fully paid-up Shares, including the Founders' Shares.

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COMPANY, Limited.
Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of \$
being a deposit of the sum of \$100,000 in full for the purchase of
shares of \$1 each in the Capital of the Volcanic Aerial
Company, Limited, I hereby request you to allot me the said
number, and I agree to accept such shares or any less num-
ber than may be required, and I agree to pay the balance of the
you may allot to me, upon the terms of the accompanying
Prospectus, dated 1st January, 1900, and subject to the
Memorandum and Articles of Association of the said Com-
pany, and I agree to pay to your Bankers the sum of \$1.00 per share on Allotment
and the balance as and when required in the terms of the said
Prospectus; and I authorise you to place my name on the
Register of Shareholders in respect of such Shares.
Signature (Name in full) _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE
 RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
 Date of Application _____ 190____
 Occupation _____
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE
 RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
 Date of Application _____ 190____
 Occupation _____

L **EBING'S COMPANIES' EXTRACT OF BEEF.**
As Stock for Beef Tea, Soups, Made Dishes,
L **EBING'S COMPANIES' EXTRACT OF BEEF.**
As Stock for Soups (Gumbo, Yams, &c.) &c.
Meat Jolly.
L **EBING'S COMPANIES' EXTRACT OF BEEF.**
Keeps for any length of time.
L **EBING'S COMPANIES' EXTRACT OF BEEF.**
Is a cheaper kind of Stock than any of
Stock.
L **EBING'S COMPANIES' EXTRACT OF BEEF.**
Forty Pounds of prime long bone are used to make
One Pound of Extract of Beef.

COOKERY BOOKS (INDISPENSABLE FOR LADIES)
sent free on application to
LIRBIO'S EXTRACT OF MEAT COMPANY (Limited)
9, FENCHURCH AVENUE, E.C.

COOK'S | **GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1905**

Tested in a Physiological Laboratory as a Germ Destroyer, and proved to be more efficient than any other.

Recommended by
**THE HIGHEST MEDICAL
AUTHORITIES FOR
ECZEMA, RINGWORM,
and all
SKIN DISORDERS.**

SOAP.

Manufacturers—
EDWARD COOK and CO.,
(Thomson's Patent.) Household and Toilet Soap Makers
London, E.

The men employed in the building trade Llandudno and other towns in North Wales, have been on strike for several days for an increase of 20 per cent., resumed work on Thursday on employers' terms.

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

NOTICE.

The series on "The London Strikes" reaches its conclusion in our present issue, and will be followed by a series, entitled "STRANGE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS," by Mr. STANLEY CATCHEPOOL. Our readers will soon discover from these "over true tales" how literally accurate is the saying that one half of the world does not know how the other half lives. Some of the facts set forth are of a really surprising character; even the oldest inhabitants can scarcely have suspected the presence of such very odd ingredients in metropolitan society.

The People.

OFFICE: MILFORD-LANE, STRAND, W.C.

"IN THE MIDDLE ORDER OF HUMANITY ARE GENERALITY TO BE FOUND ALL THE ARTS, WISDOM, AND VIRTUE OF SOCIETY. THIS ORDER ALONE IS KNOWN TO BE THE TRUE PRESERVER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED 'THE PEOPLE.'"—Vicar of Wakefield, chap. 19.

THE PENNY POST JUBILEE.

Just fifty years ago to-day, on the 10th of January, 1840, the uniform penny postage system came into operation in this country. After half a century's enjoyment by the people of England of the inestimable benefits conferred upon the public by the great reform due to the late Sir ROWLAND HILL, it is almost impossible to carry the popular mind back to the realisation of the state of things which prevailed previous to 1840. Before that date it is not too much to say that as far as the working and the lower middle classes were concerned the Post Office simply did not exist at all. The limited benefits which that department conferred at all were confined to the wealthy, who could afford to pay the exorbitant charges demanded, charges which, when regarded from the standpoint of the present development of our postal system, appear no less than fabulous. It seems incredible that within the memory of thousands of living men and women it should have been impossible to send a letter for less than fourpence except in the local town deliveries. Even that fourpence only covered an extent of fifteen miles, beyond which the charge increased with the distance, and that so rapidly, that a letter sent from London to Liverpool cost elevenpence, to Edinburgh one shilling and fourpence halfpenny, and to Cork one shilling and fivepence. Besides this, it was impossible to send a letter, however light, containing one or more enclosures, or consisting of more than one piece of paper, without extra payment of double, or sometimes treble, the amount already paid. Hence, a letter which now goes for a penny might easily have cost three or four shillings in the first three years of her present Majesty's reign. The consequences of this state of things to the less wealthy classes of the community were not merely inconvenient—they were cruel. The member of a provincial family who left home to seek employment in London or in some other city was practically cut off from all communication with his friends. The pangs of anxiety endured by fathers and mothers in those unregenerate days as to the safety of the sons, or still more, the daughters, who went into service or other employment away from home must have been terrible in the extreme. For all practical purposes the lad who leaves England for one of the colonies nowadays is nearer to his friends at home than if he had come up to London from Scotland, or even from the Midlands, to seek his fortune in the times before Sir ROWLAND HILL'S reformation.

All that has been changed, and the daily life of the whole nation is the completest commentary on the vastness of the change effected. Any one of our readers who has endeavoured to gather from what we have just said the condition of this country before the introduction of the penny post, will understand, to some extent at least, from his own personal experience how eminently worthy of commemoration is the jubilee of the penny post. From the consideration of the past one passes, by a natural transition, to that of the present and the future condition of that important department of the public service, the Post Office. The welfare of the rank and file of the employes has, our readers will remember, always been a subject of solicitude with the People. It ought to be so with the public generally, if only on the ground of common gratitude to a hard-worked and hard-working class of public servants. For the penny post could not confer its inestimable benefits upon us without the constant co-operation of the employes of the Post Office. Of late we have received various complaints which point to the existence of real grievances which it should be the business of the authorities to redress. At a time when the claims of labour (even in departments of industry of far less importance to the public than the Post Office) to improvements in its position are so freely recognised by private employers, it is only fair that the Post Office employes should have the conditions under which they work overhauled by the authorities with a view to doing everything that can be done for them consistently with the public interests. We understand that, at the present time, the employes feel very acutely the stoppage of pay in the event of absence from duty through illness. How far a legitimate demand for

economy in the working of the department would permit of an alteration in this respect it is not for us to say. But the regulation is, unquestionably, hard upon the employes of the Post Office, however it may be for the pocket of the public; and we trust that something may at least be attempted to remedy this and any other hardships under which the employes labour. After fifty years of the penny postal system, the question necessarily arises whether, after all, the penny is necessarily the limit of possible reduction in the postal charge for a single letter. If a penny post was possible fifty years ago, one may well ask whether a halfpenny post is not possible to-day. Of course, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in his official capacity, could not be expected to hail such a reduction in the revenue as the change would produce with any special enthusiasm. But then the Post Office, after all, exists primarily for the convenience of the public, and only secondarily as a source of income for the State.

There are not many Unionists among the members of the corporation of Dublin, but one of them, Mr. DOBSON, recently moved, at a meeting of the town council, that her Majesty the Queen should be invited to visit Dublin. Mr. DOBSON was, no doubt, inspired to do this by the loyal professions of Mr. SEXTON when going out of office as Lord Mayor, and by Mr. PARNELL'S moderate expressions at Nottingham. But the Unionist town councillor had reckoned without his host. The ex-Lord Mayor was in a very different vein, and at once moved an amendment denouncing the conduct of the Government. This was carried by thirty-one votes to five. It must be admitted that Mr. SEXTON'S amendment acquitted her Majesty of personal responsibility for the sufferings of the Irish people, but the speech of Mr. SEXTON showed only too plainly that the old sentiments of hostility to the Crown still dominate the town council of Dublin. Nationalist expressions of loyalty, as most people are aware at this time of day, are intended solely for English consumption; they are not meant to express the real sentiments either of the representatives of the majority of the Irish people or of the majority itself.

Mr. HUTCHINS, the chairman of the Gas Stokers' Strike Committee, is a man who compels a certain amount of attention. He does that, not by reason of his own abilities (which seem to be simply those of a mediocre labour agitator), but simply because he is a leader of a movement which has thrown some two thousand deluded men out of work, men whom (whatever their mistakes may have been) we should be glad to see in work once more. Therefore, we are sorry to see that Mr. HUTCHINS has been talking nonsense, and very pernicious nonsense, too. He has been accusing the Government of "working to help Mr. LIVESAY," and the police of "thwarting the strikers in every way." Now, what does this accusation amount to? Simply this, that the Home Office, warned by the precedent of the dockers' strike, ordered the police to do their duty—that is to say, to protect life and property and to permit no violence of any sort. Naturally, the strikers do not like that. They hoped, no doubt, to have a free hand, as the dockers had, for almost any amount of intimidation and violence to be employed against "blacklegs." The Home Office and Scotland Yard have disappointed that amiable hope, and the strikers are annoyed. But they will scarcely gain much sympathy from the public by openly expressing their disappointment.

FEARFUL FALL DOWN A COLLIERY.

While Thomas Llewellyn, employed in the Dymore Colliery, and a named Roberts, were being drawn up the shaft, the engine became unmanageable. When the tub reached the surface, Thomas, appreciating the danger, sprang out, but jumping against a trolley, fell backwards down the shaft to the bottom, a distance of 150 feet, into 40 feet of water. In the meantime Llewellyn was hurled against the sheaves at the top of the shaft. His brains were knocked out, and he was hurled dead to the bottom of the pit. Two men, named Jones and Williams, volunteered to descend the pit, and after an absence of an hour and a half, re-appeared with Roberts, who was discovered up to his neck in water clinging to the guides at the sides of the shaft. His right knee-cap had been completely smashed, and he is fearfully out about the head, but it is believed he will recover. Some hours later the body of Llewellyn was recovered and brought to the surface. The head and face were unrecognisable.

A STRANGE CAREER.

Mr. ARTAUD HAUSMANN, who, in consequence of his extraordinary conduct at the Hotel du Louvre a few years since, was treated as a lunatic and placed under restraint, has just died from the effects of influenza. He was a nephew of Baron Haussmann, and a man of considerable fortune. Although it may be doubted if he was really mad, his career was singularly incomprehensible. He married out of respect for his mother's wishes; but he held that in his case marriage was intended to be understood only in a mystical sense. His wife having accepted his doctrine of mystical matrimony, he studied for the priesthood and was at length ordained. Ecclesiastical dignities were conferred upon him, such as the rank of Papal chamberlain and Roman prelate, and he was entitled to the prefix of "Monseigneur." For ten years he lived in the same house with his wife and mother before the latter became aware of his priestly character and his peculiar mysticism. When at length by an inadvertence she received such a shock that she died from apoplexy. Suddenly this strange man became notorious. After enticing a gentleman who was his friend into a room at the Hotel du Louvre he struck him with a clock that was on the mantelpiece and threatened him with a revolver. There was a mystery about the affair that has never been quite cleared up. Mr. ARTAUD HAUSMANN was arrested, but after inquiry he was held to be irresponsible for his actions, and was sent to the Charenton Asylum. Shortly afterwards he made his escape and took refuge in Switzerland, whence he returned secretly to Paris, where he lived until his death this week. His wife, who had obtained a divorce from him, was aware of his presence in Paris, but did not take any measure to disturb him. By his will she inherits the whole of his fortune.

STARVATION AND NEGLECT.

At the Oldhill Police Court, Thomas Westwood, and Alice Westwood, husband and wife, of Cradley Heath, were committed to the Staffordshire Asylum, charged with causing the death of their two children by starvation and neglect. At the same court, David Robinson and Elizabeth Robinson, his wife, of Cradley Heath, were sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, for sending one of their children, aged 10 years, out to beg.

THE CLEVELAND-STREET SCANDAL.

Proceedings at Bow-street, Extraordinary Evidence.

Mr. VAUGHAN resumed at the Bow-street Police Court during the past week the hearing of the charge against Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, Frederick Taylorson, and Adolphus de Galla, of having conspired to obstruct and defeat the course of justice in regard to proceedings pending against certain persons at the Marlborough-street Police Court and the Central Criminal Court, for offences alleged to have been committed at 19, Cleveland-street. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. H. AVORY, Mr. GILL, and Mr. A. LEWIS, on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. GILL defended Newton; and Mr. St. John Wortman appeared for the other defendants.

The Youth Allies in the Witness-box.

Algeron Edward Allies was the first witness called. In answer to Mr. AVORY, he said: I live with my parents at No. 18, Gregory-street, Sudbury, Suffolk, and am 20 years of age. On the 4th of September I gave evidence at the Marlborough-street Police Court upon a charge against a boy and man named Newlove and Veck, and I was bound over in recognisance to appear at the Old Bailey. I lived under the observation of the police at the Rose Coffee-house, 38, Houndsditch. Police-constable Hanks came down to Sudbury and took a statement from me in writing. On the same night he brought me to London, and on the following day I went to the office of the solicitor to the Treasury. I received an anonymous letter a day or two before Hanks came down, which I destroyed. In consequence of it I destroyed other letters.

Letters from Lord Arthur Somerset.

After I gave evidence at the Old Bailey on the 18th of September I returned to my lodgings in Houndsditch, where, some little time after, the defendant, Taylorson, came to see me. He told me he wanted me to go abroad and said I should be paid all I wanted if I would go. I told him I should refer him to Inspector Abberline. He said if I would go he would meet me at some appointed place and go to Liverpool that same evening, to start for America next morning. He also said, provided I could not get work I should be allowed £1 a week. He would also give the captain £15 to give to me when I arrived there. After some persuasion I said I would go. He said he would meet me at Tottenham Court-road at the A1 public-house at nine o'clock the same evening. He had come from Mr. Newton. He gave me six shillings, and made out, at my dictation, a list of the clothes I should want. I had not seen my parents since I left Sudbury. Taylorson said he had called upon them, and obtained their consent to my going. He represented them as being quite willing for me to do so, and added that if I liked to go and see them I might do so that afternoon.

Statement to the Police.

After he left I went and saw Inspector Abberline, and afterwards made a statement. The same evening, at nine o'clock, I went to the A1 public-house, Tottenham Court-road, and was followed by Abberline and Police-constable Hanks. In the house I met Taylorson, with whom I went subsequently in a cab to the Marlborough-street public-house, at the top of Great Marlborough-street, at the last of which I ordered a pint of beer for me and cigars for both. Just then Inspector Abberline walked in and said to Taylorson, "What are you doing here with this boy?" The defendant declined to answer. I was handed over to Hanks. On the 12th of November I joined in an information which was sworn at Marlborough-street against Lord Arthur Somerset; and on the 19th of November I was brought to the Treasury for the purpose of seeing my father. I had not at that time expressed any anxiety to see him; in fact, I refused to see him.

An Appeal for Help.

About this time in August, and before it, I was anxious to obtain employment, and appealed to Lord Arthur Somerset to try and get me into some tobacco-shop. When I was convicted of stealing Lord Arthur Somerset became my surety, but I did not know till some time afterwards that he was Lord Arthur Somerset. I had been employed at a club where the charge of stealing was made against me. On the 23rd of August, when Hanks wrote down my statement, I answered every question put to me. On the following day I made a statement to the Treasury, and in that statement told all I could possibly think of. I made a subsequent statement to the Treasury with regard to Mr. Newton. I believe it was the 12th of November when I swore my information against Lord Arthur Somerset. Up to the time you gave me the money, I was in the street every day, and willing to give evidence against anybody? Yes.

A Letter to Mamma.

Mr. GILL read a letter written by witness to his mother, which, it was suggested, was in his own wording, as distinguished from others that would be read. The letter was headed "All letters to be addressed to Mr. A. E. Allies, care of Inspector Abberline," and continued, "Dear Mother—Do not let any one know anything concerning me. Do not let any one call upon me to-day through your giving my address. I am all right, and remain your loving son, A. E. ALLIES. P.S.—I am all right, and am under the care of the Treasury. I do not wish any such people to know where I am. I shall return home as soon as I dispense my services.—A. E. Allies, care of Inspector Abberline."—Mr. GILL: At the time you wrote that letter, where were you lodging? Witness: I had declined to give any address. Mr. GILL: Oh, I don't think you will. Mr. AVORY: I submitted that a question ought not to be pressed, and objected to the witness's present address being made known.—Mr. GILL read another letter, and said his contention was that these letters were inspired and sham letters.—The magistrate thought under the circumstances the question should not be pressed.—Mr. GILL: Look at that letter (handed up). Do you say that that is your letter? Witness: Yes.—And written of your own free will? Witness: Yes.—I suggest to you that that was given to you to copy? That is not so, sir.—The Magistrate: Was it written out of your head?—Witness: Yes, sir.

Not Dictated.

The letter was dated the 18th of October, and in it the following language was used:—I can only say that, under the circumstances, it is much better that we should not meet, as I am fully convinced you have been misled by some person who is seeking his own ends, and not your interests or mine. With regard to your statement that a rumour concerning me was circulated in Sudbury by Hanks, I can only tell you you are wrong. If you are right, how is it that nothing was heard till weeks after we left the place, when your so-called friend visited there? I know for a fact that he, and not Hanks, is the author of the scandal. You are also wrong in saying I wrote my last letter at the dictation of the police, for I can assure you I am not under their influence. My position stands thus: I am staying here of my own free good will, and I propose to do that which I consider to be just, and as I am old enough to think for myself, I shall not be advised by any one in the matter. When you know the truth, you will be glad I have acted as I have done.—Hoping that you and mother are quite well, I remain, your affectionate son, A. E. ALLIES. Rememberance to all.—Now, do you mean to say that you wrote that letter entirely of your own accord? Yes.—And that it was not dictated by Hanks? Yes.

Supplied with Money.

From the time of your conviction did Lord Arthur Somerset supply you with money? Yes.—Do Newton has never spoken to you? No; nor Dr. Galla either.—Witness, in response to a cross-examination, went into more detail about his first interview with Taylorson. He added: I said I should

not care to go down to Sudbury to live any more, because I knew that Taylorson must have mentioned the circumstances to my mother. When I spoke about the rumour about me at Sudbury, Taylorson did not say that the best I could do to answer the rumour was to go and show myself at Sudbury, nor did he say that if I did not like staying at Sudbury when I got there I could go elsewhere.—And you never intended to go either to Sudbury, or America, or anywhere else? Certainly not. I had made up my mind to stay where I was.—Would you not think the greatest kindness anyone could do you would be to give you a fresh start in life? Well, I thought £15 was not enough to go to America (laughter).—Oh, now we have got it. It is best to be frank. You thought £15 too little? Yes.—What did you think would be enough? I don't know.—Would a hundred have been enough? I think £100 would have been much better to take such a chance as that. I told Taylorson there was a great deal I should want, and I gave him a list of clothes, because I wanted to get rid of him. Had I hesitated about the list of clothes he would have thought I did not intend to go. He was angry that I was to go the same way with Abberline and Hanks to Tottenham Court-road. On that night I acted by Abberline's instructions.—You wanted to try and assist the police in catching Taylorson? It was suggested to me that I should go on, and they would follow me up.—So that you knew what you were being used for that night? Yes.

Letters to Veck

Mr. GILL read letters written by the witness to Veck. The first was dated July 27th, 18, Gregory-street, Sudbury, Suffolk, and in it the writer, addressing "My dear Mr. Veck," said that he had not heard from "Captain Brown" (Lord A. Somerset), as he had expected to do so, and the captain had promised that he should. Witness was told there was a rumour against Lord Arthur Somerset, but they did not tell me he had left the country.

"What is Just."

Still I remained with the police, and do so at the present moment, for the reason given in my letter of the 10th of October, that I wish to do that which is just.

Thickbroom's Evidence.

Charles Ernest Thickbroom said: I live with my parents at Holway. I was formerly in the service of the Post Office, but I was suspended in July, and was finally dismissed in December. I gave evidence on the 4th of September at the Marlborough-street Police Court upon the charge against Newlove and Veck. I believe I mentioned in the course of that evidence the man Hammond, who kept the house, and about persons who visited it. I was bound over to give evidence before the grand jury. On the 9th of December I went with a boy named Perkins, who had also been employed in the Post Office and who had given evidence at the police court, to Poland-street. I saw the defendant Newton at the corner of Poland-street and Marlborough-street. I was standing in the street at the time. It was between half-past one and two o'clock. Newton, whom I knew at that time, spoke to me. I had seen him at the Marlborough-street Police Court, where he had been examined. He said, "You know me." I am the one that crossed examined you. He began about going abroad. He asked us to come over to another street opposite, and we walked with him up to the street.

The Offer to Go to Australia.

He told us that if we would go abroad he thought he knew somebody who would do us some good. We should get £200 down, £1 a week for three years, and a new suit of clothes. He mentioned Australia as the place we had to go to. Perkins replied "Yes," but I don't recollect that I decided either one way or the other. Newton asked us if we knew where three other boys were, gave him the names of the other boys were, about which I was not sure. Newton said, "Allies has made a fool of himself. He might have been away and doing well. There are two or three others away doing well."

Would Like to have Gone Abroad.

In cross-examination by Mr. GILL, witness said he guessed that the information he swore was against Lord Arthur Somerset, and knew he had left the country. Witness went to Marlborough-street to see what Mr. Newton had to say about going abroad. Perkins had asked him to go. Witness's object in going was to see what he could get Mr. Newton to do for him, and with a view of telling the police what might transpire. Witness would have liked to have gone abroad. He did not remember hearing that Allies had had an offer of £15 or £200 down and £1 a week in another country until he got work.

Discharged from the Post Office.

I saw Inspector Abberline on the day I was discharged by the Post Office. I told him we were dismissed, and he said he did not know anything about it, but asked who had dismissed us. Perkins and I wanted Mr. Abberline to get us back, if possible, into the Post Office. I was paid right up to the date of my dismissal.—At that time had you any idea of going to Australia? Yes.—In any way or form offered you nothing at Scotland Yard? In any event.—But if they had done anything for you at Scotland Yard, would you have gone to see Mr. Newton? I don't suppose we should.

An Officer's Suggestion.

When was it first suggested that you were to meet somebody? On the Saturday before I went to see Abberline on the Monday.—Whom did you think you were likely to meet? Well, from the style of it I thought we were going to meet Lord Arthur Somerset's father.—Who was it suggested that you might meet? Lord Arthur Somerset's father, or some constables.—Do you know their names? I know one is named Sladden. He was the man with whom I went about to try and identify persons in the street.

"A Thousand Pounds Down."

He said, "You leave it in the hands of these toffs, and you will be all right. I know myself there will be a thousand pounds down." Nothing further was said, and we went away soon after.—Re-examined by Mr. AVORY: It was in consequence of what had been said to me and Perkins on the Saturday night by the constable whom Sladden then met that I went to Marlborough-street. He said, "I am sure that Mr. Newton came, it was he. As I first mentioned the subject of our going abroad. It was after that suggestion that Perkins asked whether he could have a situation in London. Sladden said he did not know what the proposal was, but if we did not like it we need not listen to it. This was said on the Saturday night before the other constable came up.—Just repeat the words used by Sladden when he spoke of Lord Arthur Somerset's father? He said, "I don't know whether it is Lord Arthur Somerset's father, or some friends of his, or his solicitor."

Warrant for Lord Arthur Somerset's Arrest.

Henry Robertson, messenger at the Marlborough-street Police Court, said: I produce the original information sworn on the 12th of November at the Marlborough-street Police Court against Lord Arthur Somerset. Algeron E. Allies, Charles Ernest Thickbroom, and Charles Thomas Swincoe are deponents to that information, with others.—Upon that was a warrant granted for the arrest of Lord Arthur Somerset? Yes.—Herbert Hoskins, a clerk in the office of the Central Criminal Court, produced the indictments for misdemeanour found against Newlove, Veck, and Hammond, at the sessions of September 18th. Upon the 18th Newlove and Veck pleaded guilty to the principal charges against them, and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. Hammond had absconded, but his name was included in the indictment by leave of the Recorder, on special application being made.—William Meach Perkins gave corroborative evidence.

"You shall See Something."

On the day following my interview with Sladden I received a letter from him. It was brought

me by a girl whom I did not know. The letter from Sladden ran:—"Will you and Thickbroom meet me outside my house at 9.15 to-day? (Signed) R. S." I accompanied Thickbroom, and we met Sladden, and went with him to the police station at Portland-road. Sladden then went on duty with other constables. We followed, and Sladden broke out of the rank and said to us, "You shall see something." About half an hour after a person came up. That person was the policeman who stands at the gate at the Marlborough-street Police Court. He spoke to me, and in consequence of what he said to me I went to Poland-street, and about ten minutes afterwards I saw Mr. Newton. We were standing at the corner when Mr. Newton came up. He said, "You remember me in Marlborough-street?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I know somebody who would do you some good if I asked them. If you will go abroad to Australia, you'll get £200 down and £1 a week for three years, and a new suit of clothes. I was willing to go. He mentioned the names of three others, and said they must all go together. We were to take them to that same place at two o'clock the following day. I went to Poland-street, where I saw some gentleman talking to Wright and Swincoe.

The Defendant De Galla.

I recognise him as the defendant De Galla. He accosted me, and asked if I had been to 24, Marlborough-street (Mr. Newton's office), and I said that I had not. Then we went to a public-house at the junction of Poland-street and Great Marlborough-street, and there I had dinner, for which De Galla paid. He said that he wanted me and the other boy to start the same night, per London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, to France. We should, he said, see someone on board the vessel whom we knew. After an interval of an hour or an hour and a half he came back and said that the boat was full that night, and that we could not go till the following day. In the meantime, he said, we were to go to Edgewood-road, and find the man who was to go with him to a coffee tavern in that road.

They Received a Sovereign.

He engaged bed-rooms for us, ordered tea, and gave Wright a sovereign to pay for it. At De Galla's request we all gave our names. De Galla remained with us till three o'clock, and then left, telling us to wait till he returned, as there must be something the matter, and he would go and see what it was. He came back about a quarter-past four, and told us that he should have to have our parents' consent to go abroad. We were under age. He further told us that "a lady and a minister" were going to call at our houses in order to get our parents' consent. He told us to go home, and we did so.—Cross-examined: You were annoyed, I suppose, at being made a fool of? Yes.—And you said that you had been kept fooling about for two days for nothing? Yes, I told my mother that. I was annoyed that when I told her what had happened, she had been told by Hanks or Abberline that you would be continued in the employment of the Post Office? Yes, by Hanks.

Dismissed Without Notice.

—What did he say? He said I was all right. I remember being sent for and dismissed without notice. That was on the 6th of December. In the interim I was always available for the purpose of giving evidence if wanted. Of course I was annoyed when I was dismissed. I said I thought it was more than we could have expected. That was said in a sarcastic way. I went to Abberline in consequence of this treatment, when I told him what had happened. He said he would inquire about it. I saw Hanks on the following Monday, and told him I had been discharged, and he said he was surprised. When Thickbroom and I saw Sladden on the Friday, and told him we had been discharged. When Mr. Newton spoke to me he said, "Do you know me?" I told him that we had been dismissed, and he remarked, "Then I suppose they will let you go the devil now." I said, "I should be glad to see some one would do something for me." Mr. Newton thereupon said, "I think I know some one who might do something for you." He asked us if we should like to go abroad, and said there was very little chance in this country for boys like us, and that wherever we went we might be known. This was all said in the street. More than once I told Mr. Newton that I should like to go abroad.

A Statement of Defence.

Mr. GILL said his intention was to show that the whole object of De Galla's interview with the boys was to get all that had occurred in connection with the Cleveland-street case. He would prove the circumstances in which instructions were given to Mr. Newton to that effect, and that the boys were kept, not that they might ultimately be sent abroad, but that they might tell in conversation all they knew, and that Mr. Newton might thus obtain information which could not otherwise have been acquired. He said it was found that no further evidence could be got from the lads, there were told to go home.

Evidence from Brussels.

Seraphim Pollet, a jobmaster, of Rue Vauve, Brussels, whose evidence was interpreted by Mr. Albert, deposed that about three months ago the defendants, Newton and Taylorson, hailed him in the Rue Royale, Brussels, and by their request he drove to the Passage St. Hubert, to a money-changer's. They afterwards asked him at what hour the train from Luxembourg was due, and they waited. By that train a gentleman and a lad (about 16 years of age) came from Arlon. The witness here recognised Hammond's portrait as that of the "gentleman." After Mr. Newton had had a conversation with Hammond, he asked witness whether he knew a small railway station on the way to Antwerp, called Vilvoorden. Witness replied that he did, and Mr. Newton put the four packages from Arlon on to his carriage, and they went to the station, about three leagues distant. Hammond then witness a hundred francs to pay the weight of the luggage and to buy two tickets for Antwerp. This he did, and the next day witness being questioned by the Brussels police, made a statement and identified Hammond by the photograph.—Mr. GILL: I do not propose to cross-examine. I do not suppose the main facts of this will be disputed.

An Antwerp Witness.

Hector Polar, of No. 1, Rue de l'Appelle, Antwerp, was next examined. He said he was a clerk in the service of the Red Star Line at Antwerp, and remembered the steamer Pennland sailing from Antwerp on October 5th, 1889, at 8.30 a.m. He was on board with another clerk, Otto von Heller, and noticed two passengers with Cook's tickets, who, however, handed in a ticket which was for two adults and a youth of 15 years. He thought one of the passengers was the gentleman with the dark curled mustache.—Mr. GILL: All this takes place out of jurisdiction, but we have as well have the proper identification.—Mr. VAUGHAN: Let the witness go and point to any one he recognises.—The witness then singled out Mr. Newton and Taylorson, but on Mr. AVORY showing him the photograph of Hammond the witness recognised it as being that of the man whom he had mistaken for Mr. Newton.

Evidence from Messrs. Cook and Sons.

F. W. Crossley, of 73, Patashill-road, Camden Town, deposed that he was manager of Cook and Son's branch office in Oxford-street. He knew the defendant Newton, and had seen Taylorson at the office. He came on the 4th of October for passages to America for three persons by the Fenland from Antwerp.

Another ex-Post Office Employee.

George A. Wright, of 30, Bromhead-street, Commercial-road, another ex-Post Office employee, was then called. He deposed to having given evidence at the police court against Newlove and Veck, and also to having attended at the Central Criminal Court. He knew the man Hammond who kept the house in Cleveland-street, and identified the photograph spoken to by the previous witnesses.

(Continued on page 14.)

City Summons Court.

Mansion House.

Guildhall.

Bow-street:

FRAUD ON A COVENT GARDEN TRADERMAN.—A young man, giving the name of Frank Stacey was charged, with obtaining goods by fraud from Mr. Frederick James Denoon, fruit merchant, Covent Garden Market. —Mr. Crawshaw, solicitor, appeared, and elicited the following facts. On 15th December the prisoner called on prosecutor and represented that he was in business with his father as a fruiterer at Swanley Junction, and showed an envelope that induced prosecutor to believe the representation to be correct. He said that he had a quantity of ivy and

Mariborough-street.

Marylebone.

West London.

PRODUCT OF A HUSBAND

Thames.

Westminster.

Southwark,
London, Surrey

Wandsworth

INQUESTS.

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to afford a doctor. Events attended, but death ensued.

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death, a distance of fifty feet in a diving condition, and

STRIKERS CONVICTED

**ALLEGED EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF
MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

A MAN STABBED IN PICCADILLY.

On Saturday two serious cases of severe scalds

On Saturday, at the Croydon Petty Sessions, M

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—SURPA
INGLY EFFICACIOUS AS A RESTORATIVE MEDICINE AND FOOD

On Saturday Charles Saunders, living in High-

crushed.

HAVE YOU A BAD LEG.

GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT AND PILLS.

- GEORGE ADAMS, MARKET COMMISSIONER.

FOR

AND THE

TYNDER the title of "Neophrosine as a Cure for Sleepless-

HEALTH, STRENGTH, AND ENERGY

DR. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE
FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS has maintained its won

It Cures Dyspepsia, Nerve and Heart Disease.
Gives Vigor and Young Appearance.

DR. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE

GIVEN GRATIS.

could not at have had their appetites restored; people had suffered years with indigestion and its consequences

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

It is said that Drury Lane when full, at pantomime time, holds nearly 40,000 per week.

The oldest duke is the Duke of Cleveland, aged 66; the youngest the Duke of Albany, aged 5.

There were no fewer than 100 burials at the Manor Park Cemetery last Sunday.

Dundee is afflicted with a new disease. The Scotch papers dub it "the wife-beating epidemic."

Mr. Baxter, the coroner, tells of an East-end doctor who attended 300 patients on Sunday last.

Lord Strathallan and Lord Saltoun have been elected representative peers of Scotland.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith and family have left London for Nice, where Mr. Smith will join his yacht for a short cruise in the Mediterranean.

Dr. Westland Martin, the poet and dramatist, died a few days ago at his residence, 91, Euston-road.

Charles Higginbotham, an elderly man, was taken on Tuesday at Warwick, for the murder of an old woman with whom he had lodged.

Vermont should be happy in its pensioners—if numbers be the standard of happiness. They tottle up to 7,128.

There was not a single death from smallpox last week in any of the twenty-eight most populous towns in England.

Forty thousand communications are daily made by telephone in London over the wires of the National Telephone Company.

John Johnston, an Aldridge miner, having quarrelled with his mother and brothers, went and hung himself straight down a mine shaft.

An English yacht, called the *Imber*, has been wrecked on the Azores in a gale. The lifeboat escaped, and eight of the crew were drowned.

A New York correspondent reports the continuance of unprecedented mild weather throughout the United States. The rainfall is also much under the average.

The Queen has approved of the appointment of Mr. William Meigh Goodman (Chief Justice of British Honduras) to be Attorney-general for the colony of Hong Kong.

Different forms of violence caused ninety-one deaths in London last week. Of these seven were cases of suicide, and three of murder or manslaughter.

Princess Christian's winter dinners to the poor children of Windsor have been resumed. A hundred and seventy-six boys and girls were entertained one day during the past week.

William Tomlyn, of High Wycombe, was discovered dead in his home in the sitting of lightning his pipe. The heart's action had suddenly failed whilst he was engaged in that act.

The infant victims of overlying reached an extraordinary number in the metropolis last week. "Twenty-eight infants under one year died from suffocation," reports the Registrar-general.

The births in London last week numbered 2,901, and the deaths 2,371. The births were 117 below the average of the corresponding weeks of the last ten years; the deaths were 425 above the average.

Browning's sister is far from well. The shock of her brother's death, and the trying journey from Venice and all the subsequent excitement she has since experienced, have had a very bad effect upon her.

William Chandos Hicks, baker, was, at Birmingham Quarter Sessions, sentenced to six months' hard labour for obtaining thirty sacks of flour, he being an undischarged bankrupt at the time. When buying the flour on credit he did not say that he was a bankrupt.

A telegram from Paris states that the Boulangists are concentrating their whole strength on the approaching municipal elections in the capital, neglecting all other places. The general will be a candidate in the Eighteenth Arrondissement.

The interment of the late Empress of Brazil took place a few days ago at Lisbon. The King of Portugal received Dom Pedro and the other illustrious mourners, and a large number of representatives of royal houses attended the ceremony.

Hubb Miller was married at Christmas to Annie Miller, of Columbus, N. J. While the couple were en route to the home of the groom in Stroudsburg, Pa., Miller was shot in the back mortally by John W. Snyder, a rejected lover of the bride. The bride was also shot, but was not seriously wounded. Snyder fled.

An inquest was held at Twickenham as to the death of Captain H. Fullerton Richmond, late of the 10th Hussars, whose body was found in the Thames at Crossedep a few days ago. The evidence did not bring out the circumstances connected with his death, and an open verdict of found drowned was returned.

New York should be religious. Plans for more than 600 new churches have been drawn within the past two years. Of these built since January 1, 1888, 12 are Roman Catholic, 8 Protestant Episcopal, 8 Presbyterian, 3 Methodist, 3 Baptist, 1 Unitarian, 1 Lutheran, 1 Congregational, and 2 Jewish.

Two hundred labourers employed at the tea warehouses of the Joint Dock Committee, at Cutler-street, Houndsditch, struck work the other afternoon, owing to the refusal of the committee to discharge a workman whose "card" was not in conformity with the rules of the Labourers' Union.

The adjourned inquest as to the death of the man who was drowned by the foundering of the *Cleddy*, which came into collision with another steamer of the *Needles*, was resumed at Ventnor. After evidence had been given, the coroner said that it was not sufficient for a verdict saying which party was to blame, and the jury returned an open verdict.

The influenza may be claimed, it seems, as a handmaid of temperance. Its prevalence in Munich has reduced the daily consumption of beer by over 30,000 gallons in the greatest beer-drinking city in the world. It is only to be hoped that the Munichers will not console themselves for enforced abstinence by double and triple potations when the epidemic has passed away.

A Glimby tradesman sent a prize goose as a present to the Prince of Wales, and received a letter stating that it is against the rule for his Royal Highness to accept presents, but that this would be kept on condition that a bill for it was sent. This was done, and the sender received a cheque for £1, with an intimation that the prize goose was served at the Royal table.

Speaking at Liverpool, Lord Dunraven said it was expected the forthcoming session would be an Irish one. But he hoped the scheme that was to be brought forward would not be of large dimensions, for he did not think a large demand on British credit was justifiable, except to secure safety in granting local government. Home Rule, he maintained, would be highly detrimental to the United Kingdom in respect to her relations with the colonies.

Sir St. Vincent Hammett has married Miss Glinor Lewis, youngest daughter of the late Sir Gilbert Frankland Lewis, and niece of the late Sir George Cornwall Lewis. The bride wore a costume of ivory satin duchesse, draped with Brussels lace, and tulle veil with a wreath of orange blossoms fastened to the hair with diamond stars. Two little pages wore pretty costumes of crimson velvet with white satin waistcoats.

Arthur Craig's suit for the hand of Miss Sutton, of Newman, Illinois, was bitterly opposed by her father. Waiting till he had taken leave of the girl, the old man accosted him, and, pointing a revolver at his head, told him that if he did not at once quit the house he would shoot him. Before the lover could reply, Sutton pulled the trigger. The cartridge failed to explode, but

ere he could make a second attempt, Craig had shot him dead.

A million bushels of Indian corn went last week from the United States to the continent.

A centenarian, Mrs. Ann Hunter, has become an inmate of Whiffy Workhouse.

The Paris season at Chicago (twenty-one performances), realized £46,000.

The Alcazar Theatre of Havre was burned to the ground the other night.

The death is announced of Aaron Glavin, the United States millionaire shoe manufacturer.

A new trial in the Cronin case will be argued at Chicago next Monday.

Mrs. Margaret Barton, of Haytham, near Morecambe, has just died at the ripe age of 104.

It is averred in Folkestone that 160 dogs have been found drowned in the Hythe Canal since the dog muzzling order came into force.

The temperance party in Melbourne are anxious to have a hospital to be conducted on the same lines as the London Temperance Hospital.

An alarming epidemic of measles is raging at Alton, Hants. Over 300 cases are reported. Several deaths have taken place.

Mr. Jesse Collings has assured a friend that "Mr. Chamberlain has found immense benefit from his journey, and has already overcome his old enemy, the gout—for a time at least."

The expedition sent to South America from the Lick Observatory have telegraphed that their observations of the solar eclipse on December 22nd were entirely successful.

Mr. Thomas Bright, brother of the late Mr. John Bright, and since the death of the latter senior member of the firm of Bright and Sons, Rochdale, died there on Wednesday, aged 75.

A Shanghai telegram says great damage has been done by a waterpout near Nanking. Over a hundred people were drowned in the Yangtze-Kiang, and numbers of boats destroyed and sunk.

Jane Caser, an aged woman, who was brutally treated by a navy at Tavistock a few days ago, has died at the workhouse infirmary there. Alfred Davis, her alleged assailant, was taken into custody.

One of the most notable sales of the next few weeks will be that of the library of the late Mr. Frank Marshall, the playwright and Shakespearean scholar. He estimated its value at £10,000, and, judging by the high prices now current for early editions, the sale will probably realize a sum not far short of that amount.

The other afternoon, while a game of shinty was in progress at Newtomore, near Kilmarnock, one of the players, named Ewen Cattanach, shoemaker, twenty-five years of age, and married, lay down on the field and died in a few minutes from heart disease.

An inquest held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, eight out of twelve jurors failed to answer to their names.—Mr. Langham, the coroner, said that he was expected to attend at the minute the inquest was fixed for. He should find the absentees 40s. each, and he would instruct his officer to severely enforce the fines if no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming.

The latest novelty in evening gloves is to have them embroidered in pale colours, the design beginning at the base of the hand and continuing in a spiral round and round the arm to the top of the glove. The effect is more fanciful than artistic; but the somewhat florid effect suits certain gowns made of rich brocades or of embroidered silks.

An old man named Crawford has committed suicide at Chester, it is supposed by swallowing insect powder. He had dressed himself in his best, with fresh linen and tid gloves, written intentions on a slate asking to be buried as found, and hung a black flag out of the window. The police, on breaking into the room, found him lying dead, with his hands crossed over his breast.

The mayor of Wexford, Mr. E. Walsh, has received a summons under the Crimes Act for having published in a Wexford newspaper, of which he is the proprietor, matter which is alleged to be intimidation of persons whose names are unknown who might be desirous of hiring or occupying an evicted farm formerly occupied by one Bridget Waddell. The case will be heard at Wexford next Wednesday.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre, addressing the farmers at a club dinner at Sevenoaks, congratulated them on the improved prospects of agriculture. He said that the Parliamentary committee of inquiry into the hop industry, of which he had been appointed chairman, would enter closely into an examination of the whole subject, but hop growers must understand that no such thing as the protection of a single community was possible.

The new arrangement for the police inspection of public-houses in Liverpool, by which the officers visiting the premises are frequently changed, has, it is stated, led to a large increase in the number of prosecutions, and it has been decided to devote two days weekly in future to the hearing of these cases, instead of one as hitherto. Among other cases a man was fined for being drunk on licensed premises and refusing to leave.

At Cowbridge Police Court, Morgan Crowther, of Newport, pugilist, was bound over to keep the peace for six months. It appeared from the evidence adduced that Crowther had been training at Cowbridge for some time past for his forthcoming match with the gloves with Baxter, of London, at the end of this month. The summons was issued at the instigation of the local police, and the court was crowded during the hearing of the case.

An Englishman, named Gardner, a pauper, with his wife and six children, have received permission to remain in America. Being paupers, the emigration commissioners desired to send them to England, in accordance with the law; but, as, inadvertently, they had been allowed to land, the collector of the port maintained they were residents, and refused to order their return. Judge O'Brien, of the Supreme Court, has severely censured the collector for his action.

A shocking case of cruelty to a horse has been investigated at Lambeth Police Court. It was stated that a master carman, named Henry Cornell, had worked a horse which had one of its feet broken and was suffering great pain. The defendant said he was willing that the horse should be slaughtered, but the magistrate indignantly said he should not ask the man what he was willing to do, and sent him to prison for one month without the option of a fine.

Judge Bristow, so seriously wounded by a German named Armetann, on November 19th last, has now so far recovered as to be able to leave the General Hospital, where he has been an in-patient ever since, and to return to his residence at West Hallam, Derbyshire. As a mark of gratitude for the kindness and attention received, his honour has bandied a donation of fifty guineas to the funds of the institution, and has repaid all the costs of maintenance and medical attendance.

At the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Cricket Club, Mr. Ellison, the president, made some very striking observations on one of the causes which led to the collapse of the county team last year. He said that some of the professionals had been induced to take drink by so-called supporters of cricket, and their position, in consequence, had been seriously affected. Whilst the interests of the county had also suffered largely. He protested against the practice of "standing drinks" to players.

The authorities have presumably determined to put a stop to "the lottery system" in connection with benevolent institutions. Three years ago a successful prize distribution scheme added about £1,400 to the funds of the North-west London Hospital. It was arranged to inaugurate a similar effort this year, and subscriptions had been taken amounting to nearly £2,000 when a communication was received from the authorities pronouncing the scheme illegal. Appeals were

without effect, and the scheme had to be abandoned.

Some interesting details are given by the *Railway News* of the latest experiences in different countries of Europe in the working of tramways by electricity.

The well-known banking firm Danielouche, at Odessa, has failed. The deficit amounts to about 500,000 roubles. The managing director, M. Townanouch, has absconded.

The Chamberwell Board of Guardians are willing to pay £30,000 for a site on which to build a workhouse for South London, on condition that the site be at Champion Hill, and not at Totting.

Lord Clancarty's gamekeepers, after a storm on Monday, observed an eagle hovering over the lake at Ballinacree, and one of them shot the bird.

It proved to be a splendid golden eagle, measuring, from point to bill, 3ft., and from tip to tip 17 in.

It was stated some weeks ago that Major Le Caron was occupying himself in writing his reminiscences. The book is now approaching completion, and may be expected quite shortly. It will probably create something of a sensation.

It is reported that great preparations are being made by the Russian Government with a view to beginning the construction of the Siberian Railway next spring at Tomsk, Stretensk, and Vladivostok simultaneously.

Tooting, with its population of 10,000, has just had added to it a horse-cart and fire-escape, in addition to the present station. The parties of London covers a very large area, and this addition to the fire brigade has been much appreciated.

We hear much of the enormous labour involved in our various encyclopedias. What of this from China? The great encyclopedia compiled by the Celestial specialist in the reign of Kien-lung is to be re-edited and practically re-written. It is a work that dwarfs the "Britannica," for the index alone consists of fourteen large volumes.

A post mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Bryden, the lady found dead in a house at Chiswick, resulted in the discovery that she had died of her artificial teeth, which had slipped into the gullet while she was in the act of removing them on going to bed.

Captain Shaw was informed the other night of a fatal fire, which occurred from an unknown cause, at 17, Moreton-place, Finsbury. A woman named Emma Anderson, 50 years of age, fell on the fire, and her clothing becoming ignited, she received fatal injuries.

A respectably-dressed woman, about 50 years of age, committed suicide by jumping from Clifton Suspension Bridge. The body fell in the mud on the riverbank, and was only recovered after a search of the third-second suicide from this bridge, and the third in about a month.

Richard Maughan was engaged at a new draft at Langley Park Colliery, near Durham, when a sudden fall of clay and soil buried him alive, another man, named Burns, having an exceedingly narrow escape. Fourteen hours elapsed before the body was recovered.

It is certainly not generally known that Mr. William Gilbert, father of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, was himself one of the severest critics of his son's work, and, moreover, that his suggestions were always listened to and respected by the dramatist, who has more than once declared that several of his happiest afterthoughts were due to his father.

A very interesting work has been published in Berlin, on one of England's great men—Oliver Cromwell. It is in three large volumes, and has plans of all the battlefields and a great number of woodcuts. Even in these modern days military men find something to learn in the story of these old campaigns.

Mr. Henry Campbell, a Belfast merchant, died a few months ago, leaving £200,000 to found a college for the sons of Presbyterian and Episcopal clergymen and a hospital. The trustees now announce that they are gathering information as to the college they will found and endow, and that the balance will go to founding and endowing a hospital.

Mr. Anstie, of the Charity Commission received a deputation from the London Trades Council, who asked that the requirements of the organised trades should be considered in the provision of the contemplated Polytechnic. The commissioner said he thought it was possible to put up such buildings as would include halls for the use of trade organisations.

Thomas Gill, lessee of St. James's Hall, Liverpool, has been fined £10 and costs for using the hall as a place of entertainment on Sunday, December 29. The entertainment was given by Samson, described as "the strongest man in the world." The prosecution was taken under an old Act which gave the authorities control over exhibitions given in the city.

The number of members interested in the co-operative societies of the United Kingdom at the end of 1889 was 409,343, and a loan capital of £2,253,578. Their annual sales amount to the vast sum of £24,438,771, and their annual net profits to £3,190,309, while the annual sum devoted by them to education is £21,330.

The steamer *Livorno*, from Liverpool to Genoa, has arrived at Milford Haven, and reports falling in with the steamer *Provincia*, from Glasgow for Cuba, about seventy miles from Milford in distress. The captain, male, and three seamen had been washed overboard. The master of the *Livorno* was put on board with instructions to make for Milford Haven.

An alarming accident occurred near Pompey the other morning. A passenger train ran into a ballast train coming in the opposite direction during a thick fog, which prevented the engine-drivers from seeing the danger, and they had no time to reverse their engines. The shock of the collision was tremendous. Fortunately there was no loss of life, but several of the passengers were injured, one very seriously.

A grand public fête was held on Tuesday night at Calcutta, in honour of Prince Albert Victor. It was entirely of an Oriental character, and the entertainments included a Nauteh and Kutak dance, a Tibetan dance, some of the most famous Indian juggling tricks, a native theatrical performance, and the like; the whole forming a highly interesting programme. Thousands of people, Europeans and natives, were present.

The remains of the twenty-six boys who lost their lives in the fire at Forest Gate on New Year's morning were interred early in the week at the West Ham Cemetery. The coffins were taken first to St. James's Church, where the Rev. Canon Scott conducted the service. The route to the cemetery was crowded, and some thousands of people, many of whom were from Whitechapel, thronged the neighbourhood of the graves.

Trial in full court of the Bishop of Lincoln's case will be resumed at Lambeth Palace on February 4th. It is not expected that the Bishop of Winchester will again act as an assessor with the Bishops of London, Salisbury, Oxford, and Rochester; his place will be taken by the Right Rev. Dr. Atlay, Bishop of Hereford. Proctors will be the same as on previous sittings of the court.

A year in which the seasons have been fairly propitious, the crop of wheat all moderately good, prices for all kinds of produce (with the exception of wheat) fairly remunerative, in which a Board of Agriculture was established, and in which such large exhibitions as those at Windsor and Paris were held, cannot fail to be a noteworthy one in the annals of our agriculture. Such a year has been the one that has just ended.

Among the queer institutions of Paris of whose existence the ordinary English visitor, with all his zeal for exploration, has no notion, is the Dog Market, which is held every Sunday in a corner of the Marche aux Chiens, where the Rev. Canon raised market that brings into the exclusive of the city an annual sum equivalent to £100. This proves that a great deal of business is done by the sale of dogs in the course of the year. A tax of fifteen centimes is levied upon the "hand" of

each animal that is brought to market. The number of entries averages 14,000 annually.

The Western Union Telegraph building in St. Louis city has been destroyed by a fire, attributed to a broken electric wire.

The Russian Government has ordered a census to be made of all foreigners living in the empire, their occupations, resources, and general position.

The cholera is still causing great ravages in Homarden, Persia. As the Shah has ordered the sanitary cordons to be withdrawn, the physicians fear its importation into Tehran.

On Thursday afternoon a workman employed on the new buildings in Bell-lane, Moorgate-street, fell from the scaffolding, a distance of about eighty feet, and was instantly killed.

Conflicting rumours having been circulated as to an intended dispersal of the Althorp library, a correspondent is authorised to state that Lord Spencer has, up to the present, taken no steps towards an early sale of that famous collection.

Albert Jordan, aged 16, was found dead, hanging by the neck, in a shed, at Colliers, two miles from Faversham.

James and as he did not return home, his father named, and he was found in a shocking manner.

The Duke of Westminster has granted an abatement of 35 per cent. to his Welsh agricultural tenants. Lord Mostyn, the Earl of Denbigh, and Sir George Cayley, Bart., have granted their tenants a reduction of 10 per cent.

It is reported at Skibbereen that six men have been drowned whilst endeavouring to save some of the wreckage of the steamship *Queensmere* in Dunmanus Bay. The boat's crew have been washed ashore.

John Milburn, aged 39 years, a clerk in a loan office, and lately residing at No. 34, Prince's-road, Kensington Cross, was the other day discovered by his son, William Milburn, at the rear of his house with his throat cut in a shocking manner. By his side lay a broad-knife covered with blood.

A young girl, named Mitchell, aged 19, was knocked down and killed whilst walking over a level crossing at Ewell, near Epsom, on the London and South-Western Railway. The body was terribly mutilated, and it is supposed that four or five cars passed over her.

The dead body of a man, about 50 years of age, was found at the Exchange Station, Manchester, in the express from Liverpool to Manchester. There was a bullet wound in the temple and in the right hand a revolver. Passengers in the other compartments heard no shot fired.

Dr. Roberts, medical officer of health for Deptford, has reported to the District Board that the occupier of a house in Blackhorse-road, Deptford, kept a horse in the kitchen at that address. The board resolved to serve a notice to remove the animal.

It is stated that the donor of one hundred thousand pounds for building and endowing a convalescent hospital is Mr. Peter Reid, who was at one time well known as a prominent City man. Mr. Reid was interviewed on Wednesday, but declined to say anything about the matter.

George Brown, 25, newsvendor, was charged before Mr. Blado, at Southwark, on Thursday, with knowingly uttering a counterfeit shilling with intent to defraud the proprietors of the White Horse and Half Moon public-houses, High-street, Borough. The prisoner, who said he had nothing to say, was remanded for a week.

The 17th anniversary of the death of Napoleon III. was celebrated quietly on Thursday at Farnborough. A commemorative service was held in the crypt of the mausoleum, at which the ex-Empress Eugénie and suite were present, together with Monsignor Goddard, who afterwards visited the ex-Empress and remained to lunch.

Edgar Iles, 40 years of age, a coachman in the employ of Mr. Joseph Francis Hoare, of Leinster House, College-road, Dublin, on Wednesday received a blow on his forehead from a brick which he was employed to quit his situation. Iles told Mr. Hoare that he would leave at once, but on that gentleman going to the stables half an hour later he found Iles hanging by the neck from a beam in the roof.

At Blackburn a little girl of 5 years, named Alice Tipping, had died from injuries received in an extraordinary manner. While left alone in the house she tried to light a candle and set fire to a bread-kneader which was tied round her neck. She leapt and ran into the street, tugging at the bread-kneader, but before it could be untied she was fatally burned about the neck.

At the Mansion House on Thursday, Hatfield Turner and Frederick Clarke were further examined upon a charge of forging a Chilian bond for £1,000, and of stealing five Alabama Central Railway bonds of the value of £200 each, part of a parcel containing £22,000 worth of bonds stolen from Messrs. Haring's bank in November, 1883. After some evidence had been heard, the case was again adjourned.

Following within a week the famous tenor Gayarré, there has died in poverty, in a narrow house, College-road, Dulwich, on Wednesday, the famous baritone, Giorgio Bonconi. Born at Milan in 1810, Bonconi was the friend and contemporary of Mario. Some fifteen years ago he lost all his fortune, and he then obtained a professorship in the Madrid Conservatoire, and upon the modest salary of the post he had since lived.

Maria Brown, 62 years of age, of Fulham Market, Norfolk, is reported to have been kicked to death by Elijah Snelling, a labourer, her son-in-law. A woman named Hardy heard the blows, and saw Snelling close by a field where Brown's body was afterwards found. Sergeant Gooch, of Harefield, and other officers arrested Snelling on Wednesday night at Eusell. He has the reputation of being a violent man.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the St. George's Bibles, Colonel Stanley O. Bird commanding—took place on Wednesday night at the Portman Rooms. During the past year the shooting of the corps had greatly improved. In 1888 they had only seven marksmen, but in 1889 they had fifteen. The best shooting company was E Company. Major-General Philip Smith, C.B., Commander of the Home District, distributed the awards.

A shocking case of suffocation occurred on Thursday on board the steamer *Clyde*, of Liverpool, at South Shields. It appears that late on the previous evening four seamen belonging to the steamer retired to bed in the fore-cabin, and upon the place being entered in the morning, the bodies of three of them were found dead from suffocation, and the other three were in an unconscious condition. Dr. McKerron was summoned to attend the injured.

Advices from San Francisco state that some commotion has been caused there by a tragedy which occurred in the domestic circle of Judge Clark, of Tehama, California. His two sons had a bitter quarrel on family matters, and during the altercation one lifted a chair to attack his brother.

The latter instantly drew his revolver and shot his brother dead on the spot. At the inquest the coroner's jury held that the shooting was justifiable, and directed that the survivor of the fray should be released from custody.

An explosion of gas took place on Wednesday at St. Clement's Day Schools, Bournemouth, where a gasfitter, named Peach, was doing some repairs. He took down the pondant in one of the rooms, and not noticing the gas was still on he left the room. On his return he noticed the smell, and opened the windows, but striking a match before the gas had cleared off, an explosion occurred. He was knocked down and severely burned, and had to be conveyed to the dispensary. The windows were shattered and a door was blown out.

At the flour mill of Messrs. Rayner and Son, Snow Hill, Birmingham, a man named John Miller, 42 years of age, has met with a terrible death. Miller was engaged with the rollers. He started work as usual, and everything went on well until just after eleven o'clock, when the machinery suddenly stopped. An employé went to ascertain the cause of the stoppage, and he was shocked to see Miller lying among the machinery. No one witnessed the accident, but it is evident

that the unfortunate man had been caught in the machinery working the rollers.

Wednesday was the twenty-ninth anniversary of the birth of Prince Albert Victor.

Since the commencement of the new year there have been no fewer than thirteen murders in Berlin and suburbs.

Two additions were made to the Navy on Thursday by the launching at Sheerness of the first-class gunboats *Cossamer* and *Gleaner*, 3 guns, 7½ tons, 4,500 horse-power.

Mr. Chaplin has been compelled, owing to his recent indisposition, to postpone his visit to Stamford, where he was to have addressed a meeting on the 14th inst.

Fleet-street has lost a familiar figure in the person of Mr. George Bentley, who has been for many years printer and publisher of the *Standard*. He was a nephew of Mr. Bentley, the publisher.

The Essex County Council have decided to pay their chairman, Mr. Andrew Johnston, £1,000 a salary of £200 a year, in consideration of the duties of the office.

It has been decided at the War Office to commence the armament of the European army in India with the Magazine rifle, and a first supply of 8,000 is about to be sent out towards the total of over 50,000 which will be required to complete the armament.

Considerable excitement was caused on Thursday at 53, Gray's Inn-road, by a man jumping from a window some fifty feet high. He was immediately conveyed to the Royal Free Hospital, but on arriving there it was found that he was dead.

George Child, one of the four men who escaped last week from the Glasgow prison, was apprehended on Thursday in York-street, Glasgow. He endeavoured to escape by a window, but the police having surrounded the house he surrendered. Only one man remains to be caught.

Thomas Lewin, butcher, Leicester, has been fined three guineas, or one month's hard labour, for offering horseflesh for sale at his shop without any announcement that he dealt in it. The flesh was healthy, and was placed among some beef.

The Royal Military Exhibition in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital, to be opened in May by the Prince of Wales, will be under the immediate patronage of the Queen, and will offer many attractions which will be duly announced. Messrs. Spiers and Pond are to be the refreshment caterers.

On Thursday morning a fire occurred at 115, Milton-road, South Hornsey, occupied by Mr. Pearce, and had it not been for the prompt exertions of the local board firemen, serious damage must have resulted. As it was, the contents of the basement were destroyed. The cause was the ignition of some linen which was airing before the fire.

The steamer *Hibernian*, of Middleburgh, en route for Boulogne, collided with a small vessel, name unknown, in Sea Reach, Gravesend, the other morning. The captain of the *Hibernian* was struck on the head by the other vessel's bowsprit, from which injury he has since died. The steamer had rails, &c., damaged. The extent of damage to the other vessel is unknown.

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THE WEST-END SCANDAL.

Examination of ex-Post Office Boys.

Extraordinary Admissions.

At Thursday's hearing of the charge against Mr. Arthur Newton, Frederick Taylorson, and Adolphus De Galla, of conspiring to defraud the ends of justice in connection with charges against persons implicated in offences committed at 15, Cleveland-street, George Wright, an ex-Post Office boy, was further examined. He corroborated the evidence already given as to the interviews the boys had with De Galla. By Mr. Gill: He was nearly 19 years of age. He went to Cleveland-street once only. Counsel was proceeding to put certain questions, and he being interrupted by the magistrate, said he wanted to show that the words of these boys should not be taken against a human being. The witness, continuing, admitted that at Marlborough-street Police Court he had given his age as less than it really was. Mr. Vaughan remarked that he did not think it was necessary to go further into the character of the boy. Charles Thomas Swinocoe, of 164, Liverpool Buildings, Station-road, Highbury, deposed to his suspension at the Post Office on July 4th, and his dismissal on December 6th. The witness, in effect, confirmed the evidence given by the previous witnesses as to meeting De Galla and the suggestion of going to Australia.

He Told a Lie.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gill, the witness said he was the first to make a statement. He had been found in possession of money, and Hanks (the Post Office constable) told him he must tell him where he obtained it. He could not say that he had exactly told the whole truth. He had told Hanks that he had only been to the house twice. That was a lie. He had been there five times. He had told the lie, as he did not think there would be any further consequences. He had sworn an information, and then it was that he knew there would be a bother about it. In the information he had sworn that he had only been to the house twice. He had turned round to speak to Inspector Abberline, and intended to ask him whether he should say that he had been to the house five times. The usher told him to look on and listen. He had sworn to the information, and had said he had never been to the house again, although Newlove on one occasion had asked him to go. He knew that he was swearing falsely. Thickbroom knew the story was false. You thought Abberline was the person who was to guide you in regard to what was to happen in the police court? Yes. And you spoke to him in the corridor of the court? Yes. What did he say to you? He said, "You ought to have said it then," meaning that I had been at Cleveland-street five times instead of twice. The witness continued that for five months, from July to December, he was doing nothing. Having been dismissed, the witness was very anxious to go away somewhere. Before he met De Galla he had not told his mother that he was going away. The witness remembered telling De Galla that he and Thickbroom when with the police had seen and pointed out Lord Arthur Somerset. When they saw Lord Arthur Somerset they did not know what his name was. De Galla asked the witness who he had seen him about the case. He told him somebody had been to see him about the libel case. The witness was told not to mention any names, as he might get himself into trouble. That was before he went to swear the information against Lord Arthur Somerset. He did not remember who it was that told him that.

Nearly a Disclosure.

Thickbroom had told him about Lord. The witness was on the point of mentioning a name, but he was stopped by Mr. Gill, who said he did not want any conversation that had taken place between the witness and Thickbroom. The witness remembered De Galla speaking about the necessity of getting the parents' consent for the witness and his companions to go abroad. Wright and Perkins told De Galla that they knew their parents would not object. He remembered also De Galla saying he would not send them away, as it might be another case like Dr. Barnardo's. Re-examined by Mr. Avery, the witness said that when he went home after seeing De Galla he found that his letter had already been given by his mother to the police. De Galla had said a lady and clergyman had taken an interest in the witness and his companions. Something was then said about the clergyman being Lord Arthur Somerset's father; but the witness did not know whether De Galla said that or not. On being further pressed he said he thought De Galla said he thought it was Lord Arthur Somerset's father. The witness was anxious that his name should be wrongly given. That was because if his name was recognised when he got abroad he might not get any work. Some discussion arose upon this question. Mr. Gill objecting that Mr. Avery had interpreted what the witness had said. Mr. Vaughan said he thought it was a fair interpretation. Mr. Gill said he maintained that with such a witness he ought to have the exact words of the answer. It was a lamentable thing that a prosecution should be started on such evidence.

Photographs and Letters.

Mr. Avery said that they had subpoenaed Mr. Ernest Parke, editor of the North London Press, to produce certain letters alleged to be from Hammond, in order that they might inspect them. Mr. Parke then produced six letters. He said he had also a number of other letters, cards, and photographs which he would tender if they cared to accept them. These letters were also alleged to be from Hammond. Mr. Avery said he was willing to produce them and leave them for our inspection? Yes. Mr. Gill: I suppose you have no objection to me seeing them? Not the slightest. There are twenty-six documents in all.

Inspector Abberline's Evidence.

At Friday's hearing the mothers of the several boys examined gave evidence as to their sons leaving home after inquiries had been made respecting them. Inspector Abberline deposed that on the 6th of July last he obtained a warrant for the arrest of Hammond and Newlove. He arrested Newlove on the 7th of July, and then found that Hammond had disappeared. He traced him abroad, and with the assistance of the foreign police he observed him in the witness's house as far as possible. On the 4th of October he served Allie, Swinocoe, Thickbroom, and Palmer with subpoenas. He was not quite sure about Perkins and Wright. Since the time Allie came to London he had been under observation, more particularly since the 25th of October. Witness arrested Veck and found certain documents on him, which caused him to send down to Subury and cause the boy Allie to be brought to London. Allie while living in London had not been threatened by the police. It was not true that he had been commanded not to leave the place or had been told what to say in his letters to his father. It was not true that Allie was told if he went away he would be locked up. Witness had seen Allie's mother on the 12th of November at Marlborough-street Police Court, and before that before Newlove and Veck were committed for trial. She saw her son on both occasions. In November she had been an attempt to get the boy away, there would have been some little difficulty in the mother seeing her son alone, as the commissioner had given certain orders. The case was again adjourned.

Cross-examination.

On Saturday, Superintendent Abberline was cross-examined. The witness said that in the case at Marlborough-street Mr. Newton objected to the remands and asked that the charge should be dealt with at once. The witness was aware of the various steps taken by the authorities in regard to the case. He knew that the matter had been before the Foreign Office officials in July with regard to Hammond. The witness knew this, as he saw a copy of the reply from the Foreign Office when it was an open ques-

tion whether the police or the Treasury should conduct the case, and after witness had obtained the warrant. The question was as to whether the case of Hammond was within the jurisdiction of the Treasury. He did not think the reply would be forthcoming, as it was a privileged document. The witness reviewed his instructions from Mr. Munro, Sir A. Stephenson, and the Hon. Mr. Cuffie. Witness did not know that the boys who had given evidence would be discharged from the Post Office. When they informed him of their dismissal he did not tell them he would do the same for them as was done for Allie. The latter was provided for by direction of the Commissioner of Police. Mr. Gill was asking whether the depositions of the boys were submitted to the law officers of the Crown, when Mr. Avery objected, remarking that they were treading on dangerous ground. Mr. Gill said that it might be that Mr. Newton had heard in September that the Treasury did not intend to proceed further with the case. He was entitled to show that, and he had supposed that some witness would be forthcoming who could give evidence within the case. The witness continuing said that all the information he obtained went to the authorities, also any letters or documents he found. He saw the late Chief-constable Williamson many times in connection with the matter.

ANOTHER LONDON SCANDAL.

A correspondent writes that the Scotland Yard authorities have in hand just now an investigation in the West-end of a very delicate character, upon which some light may be expected to be thrown in the police courts. In this connection, as well as with reference to the Cleveland-street affair, two persons well-known in society have within the last ten days quitted England, and rumours of further intended disappearances are strangely rife.

THE O'SHEA DIVORCE SUIT.

The legal advisers of Captain O'Shea have commenced the issue of subpoenas in connection with the divorce proceedings of O'Shea v. O'Shea and Parnell. On Wednesday John Rastin, station-master at the South-eastern Railway Station at Eltham, was served on behalf of the petitioner to prove the frequency with which Mrs. O'Shea and Mr. Parnell travelled together.

Messrs. Lewis and Lewis on Thursday entered an appearance on behalf of both Mr. Parnell and Mrs. O'Shea in the action for divorce taken by Captain O'Shea. The next step in the matter now rests with the plaintiff's solicitor.

The *Freeman's Journal* says it has been served with an affidavit by Captain O'Shea, denying the imputations contained in the comments published on the O'Shea interview, and notice that an application will be made for a writ of attachment. The date fixed is the 14th inst., but (says the *Freeman's Journal*), "we believe the date is merely nominal. We are quite prepared to see Captain O'Shea before any court in the world."

A FRIGHT AT THE THEATRE.

During the performance of the burlesque of "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" at the Avenue Theatre the other night, some fright was occasioned among the audience by the sudden flaring up of the gas in two of the footlights. The flames went up to a height of about a foot above the stage, and continued to increase in intensity and volume. The occupants of the stalls who were nearest to the flaming burners got up and prepared to make a speedy exit, and some of the chorus singers on the stage retired into the wings. The leading actors and actresses, however, as well as the conductor and members of the orchestra, displayed conspicuous thoughtfulness. One of the actresses, with more bravery than discretion, actually attempted to extinguish the flames, but was induced to desist, and the gas was turned down, the audience resuming their seats. Owing to the presence of mind of the company on the stage, and the excellent means of exit afforded at the Avenue Theatre, what would possibly have resulted in a dangerous panic was avoided.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT MILLBANK PRISON.

Mr. Samuel F. Langham held an inquest on Thursday afternoon at the Coroner's Court, Guy's Hospital, touching the death of Joseph Honeysett, aged 19, lately residing at 118, Ford's Buildings, Battersea. Emma Honeysett, wife of a blacksmith, identified the deceased as her son, who was a shoemaker. He had been convicted, and was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment at Millbank. He was in good health when he was convicted, and was discharged on the 23rd of November last. When he came home he was very ill, and told witness that he had been lying in the prison hospital for five weeks. By the Coroner: Was it on account of his health that he was discharged? Yes. Witness: The Home Secretary gave him his discharge in consequence of the accident he had sustained. When he was allowed to visit him every day when ill, he was so ill, a doctor was called in the very day he came home. He was removed to the hospital on December 30th. Before that the doctor asked him if he had met with an accident, to which the deceased said "Yes. I put my stool I used to sit on in prison on top of my shoemaker's stool to look out of the window, and I fell backwards into a bowl." He further said that he was lacerated in his cell for a few minutes, but did not know for a minute where he hurt himself. He complained to the prison warders that he was ill, and the doctor attended to him. Witness further stated that she did not think that the deceased saw the doctor when he wanted to. He never alleged that any one caused his injury. A Juror: What was his object in looking out of the window? Witness: Because he could see the steamboats passing on the river. A. Lang, warder of Her Majesty's Prison, Millbank, said that he had the deceased under his charge. Deceased never made any complaint about his having a fall. It would have been impossible for him to have seen the river from his cell window. Dr. Josephs, who attended the deceased at home, said that it seemed very strange that the deceased had been in the prison for three or four months with such an injury, and not having any attention. The man was in a very painful condition, and he thought that the case should be fully investigated. Dr. Arthur Brown said he received the deceased under his charge on admission. He remained under witness's charge for a few days. Witness had not attended the post mortem examination. The coroner's officer said it was in the rules of the hospital that the house surgeon should attend post mortem examinations. A Juror: Quite right. Dr. Josephs: Might I ask who made the examination? Witness: I suppose the house physician. The coroner: Who is he? Witness: I could not say at that date. The coroner said that it was very unsatisfactory, and he thought that some complaint should be made. The Juror: Hear, hear. Dr. Josephs said that the post mortem examination was the most important point in the case. It was a most unsatisfactory state of affairs for an institution like this one to be so negligent. The juror returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from injury to the spine and paralysis, but how the injury was inflicted there was no evidence to show.

A BANKING SWINDLE.

A Paris correspondent telegraphs that apparently there is no limit to the credulity of the public, especially when their cupidity is appealed to. Only about a month ago two swindlers, calling themselves bankers, advertised largely in the Paris press, promising by safe operations to pay one pound a week for every eight pounds deposited to them. The office of these operators was 11, Rue Turgot, but it is now closed, as they have decamped with the good round sum of twenty-four thousand francs, placed in their hands by dupes who were credulous enough to believe money could be made to bring in 600 per cent. per annum.

THE INFLUENZA IN LONDON.

Decrease of the Epidemic.

Latest Details.

The reports from the London hospitals on Friday night were more satisfactory than those of Thursday. At most of the hospitals there were fewer patients, and at the Central Telegraph Office and the General Post Office the latest statistics justify the anticipation that these two important departments of the public service will be very soon relieved from that abnormal pressure which has been entailed throughout the past week. At the Central Telegraph Office the official return brought up to Thursday night was as follows:—Absentees: males (day duty), 210; night, 31; females, 124. Moregate-street Buildings, 3 Commercial Sale-rooms, 2; total 414. In addition, 5 males and 11 females were released after doing part of a day's work. The number, it will thus be seen, reached 433 instead of the anticipated total of 460; and another hopeful fact is that at noon, Friday, there were absent from the instrument galleries at the Central Telegraph Office 305 members of the staff, as against 331 at the same hour the day before. The number of sick telegraph boys is diminishing, and the epidemic is now confined to the department and Mr. May, deputy-controller, consider the latest return most reassuring. The General Post Office employs about on Friday were 2,037, an increase of 27, whereas the increase shown in the previous published table was one of 224. This encouraging diminution has been brought about by a decrease at the head office, in the parcel depot, the northern, north-western, and south-western post districts. The figures, however, have risen slightly in the foreign branch of the head office, in the eastern, south-eastern, and Paddington post districts; but this is partly due to the certified absence of certain servants of the department who are suffering from colds and catarrh, and have been put on the sick list as a precaution against a further possible development of influenza. Mr. Tomb, the controller, believes that the crisis has passed as affecting the Post Office. The London Hospital's opinion was expressed that the disease had run its course, whilst at all the other chief metropolitan medical institutions similar reassuring reports were made. As further indicating the decrease which has taken place in the extent of the malady it may be mentioned that at Westminster Hospital, where 130 patients were seen on Wednesday, only about half that number were attended to on Friday, and all these cases were of a slight character.

A Physician's Opinion.

Dr. Powell, the senior house physician, communicated to a reporter the conclusions which he had formed on the cases which have, within the past few days, come under his notice. Dr. Powell does not find as a rule that patients are stricken down by the disease. In only a few cases the onset is sudden, the patient being prostrated at a few hours. Patients do not often seek advice before the second or third day of actual attack, believing the malady to be an ordinary cold. The chief symptoms of influenza are frontal headache, with heaviness over the eyes, pains in the back and limbs, great prostration, nausea, and often vomiting. Shivering is always present, and continues off and on for several days in the severer cases; there are muscular pains about the chest and abdomen, and most markedly bronchial irritation. Barely the malady takes the form of gastro-intestinal catarrh as evinced by vomiting and diarrhoea. Sneezing at the onset is very common. Temperature ranges between 101 and 103, and occasionally rises to 104 or even higher. The throat is in the majority of cases congested, tonsillitis being well marked in a few. Suffusion of the eyes is seldom absent, often with dimness of vision, photophobia, and slight conjunctivitis. The influenza in many cases becomes well-marked bronchitis, and in some instances pleuritic sounds have been heard where there has been severe pain in the side. Feverishness in pronounced cases lasts about a week, especially in those patients who do not sleep. During the whole of this period shivering and nausea are very common symptoms, convalescence is much protracted by persistent anorexia, and recovery is gradual. The statement that the disease attacks principally the male population is, Dr. Powell, erroneous. He finds that at Westminster Hospital nearly as many women as men present themselves. The age-range from 15 to 40. He is of opinion that the disease is not infectious in the usual sense, but climatic. As to treatment, the great point is, adds the doctor, to keep in bed and take good fluid nourishment, for drugs will be found to be of little value. He found that quinine and anti-putrescent failed to reduce fever, though the latter drug occasionally relieved intense headache.

Illness in the Army.

The anxiety with which the Army medical authorities are viewing the epidemic among the soldiers has been greatly increased by two deaths of men under treatment at the Guards' hospital in Rochester-row. These succumbed to pneumonia, following upon influenza. One died on Wednesday morning and the other in the course of the preceding night. The first was P. G. Smith, of the 1st Battalion, the 2nd Sec. The second—Private A. Watt, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, had been admitted to the hospital while in London on furlough. The Guards' hospitals are stated to be now quite full, and all the extra accommodation which can be obtained has been developed. Several of the patients have developed bad symptoms, and the army doctors in attendance are being kept at work night and day in endeavouring to combat the disease. The majority of the cases continue to come from Wellington Barracks and Kensington. None of the military establishments in London are free from the disease, and in several instances the extent of it is making heavy demands upon the men who are not affected for sentry and guard duties. At Chelsea Barracks, where the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and 2nd Battalion Scots Guards are stationed, several of the non-commissioned officers and men have been reported as suffering from influenza.

A Fatal Case.

Dr. Macdonald, M.P., coroner for North-east London, held an inquest on Thursday at the town hall, Hackney, respecting the death of Sarah Dearden, aged 32, the wife of a painter living at De Beauvoir Crescent, Haggerston. Dr. Brown, who was called in after death had occurred, stated that the cause was syncope from influenza, which complaint the deceased had contracted, and so aggravated the asthma and bronchitis from which she was suffering. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. This is the fourth death from influenza which has occurred in the district during the past week.

Distinguished Patients.

The Prince of Wales's Household has been attacked by the influenza. Sir Francis Knollys is suffering severely and Lord Salford and the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson are also ill. Earl Spencer has been attacked by the epidemic and is confined to Althorp, his Northamptonshire seat. Several servants at Althorp Park have also been attacked by the epidemic. Lord Salisbury continues to improve, and was able on Thursday to leave his room, but it will be some days before he will be able to take outdoor exercise. The Hon. Eric Barrington and the Hon. S. Greville, his lordship's private secretaries, are going on favourably. Mr. Ernest V. Beckett, M.P., is now better, and is able to take outdoor exercise. Earl Cadogan, Lord Privy Seal, is confined to the house by an attack of influenza. His lordship is progressing favourably. The Hon. Percy Allsopp, M.P. for Taunton, was to have addressed his constituents on Friday, but was prevented from doing so owing to an attack of influenza. Lord Wicklow, who is staying at

Shelton Abbey, county Wicklow, is also suffering from influenza.

The Local Government Board and the Epidemic.

The Local Government Board is collecting information, through its medical department, concerning the epidemic of influenza which appears to have reached this country, and endeavouring to elucidate the unsolved questions relating to the causation of this disease.

Compulsory Medicine Taking.

A West-end firm of chemists has caused the following notice to be posted up in their laboratories, warehouse, and factory:—"Influenza Prophylactic. All hands are to take two fluid drachms of ammoniated tincture of quinine, well diluted with water, twice daily, at twelve and four o'clock, until further notice."

Benefit Societies and the Epidemic.

The various sick benefit societies of the metropolis will this week be subject to an extraordinary strain. Many of the courts and lodges of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of Foresters have 910 and even a larger percentage of their total membership upon the funds, which will necessitate a heavy drain upon their reserves. Should the epidemic continue several weeks it is feared that some of the poorer societies, who have been struggling for years against collapse, will have to close their books. A secretary of one of the largest Foresters' courts informs us that such a dilemma has not been experienced during the present generation, not even in the cholera crisis. The Hearts of Oak, the largest centralised society, the offices of which are in Charlotte-street, Tottenham Court-road, is experiencing similar results from the visitation, a large proportion of its members being laid up; and the Royal Standard Society, of Great Ormond-street, also has a heavy demand upon its funds.

In the Provinces.

At the meeting of the Edmonton board of guardians it was reported that there were seventy cases of influenza in the union schools at Enfield. Over 400 hands have been incapacitated at the Enfield Lock Small Arms Factory. At Messrs. Ridley, Whitley, and Co.'s factory, on the Edmonton Marshes, there are nearly 100 employed absent by reason of the epidemic. Lord Rayleigh, who has been prostrated by the Russian influenza at Tooting Place, Witham, has now almost recovered. The epidemic has spread to an alarming extent in Essex. At the meeting of the Essex County Council on Wednesday, a large number of members were announced to be stricken with it. The epidemic has broken out in Norwich, and two deaths are reported as traceable to it. The influenza continues to spread in the Windsor garrison, although its progress was not so marked as on the previous days. The influenza epidemic continues to spread very much in Dover and the neighbourhood. Influenza has spread throughout rural West Surrey, and the towns of Guildford, Godalming, Farnham, and Woking are considerably affected. A football match between Guildford and Farnham has had to be postponed. The influenza is spreading in the Guildford town. Mr. F. H. Koran, M.P. for Lincoln, is suffering from influenza, and is unable to fulfil his engagements. There are a large number of cases in the villages surrounding Lincoln, and two deaths are reported from the village of Southrey. From places as widely distant as Sunderland, Merthyr, Exeter, Gravesend, and Limerick reports come as to the progress of the disease.

The Epidemic Abroad.

A few days ago 170 foreigners are stated to have entered, while 512 left, Paris hotels. At Marseilles the epidemic is raging with great severity. At Tientsin the surrounding districts the disease is prevalent, but in a mild form. Princess Bismarck has almost entirely recovered. Dr. Dollinger is better. It appears that 500,000 persons residing in Vienna and the suburbs, or 42 per cent. of the entire population, have been attacked by influenza, and to the present date the influenza is spreading in Rome and in Northern Italy, but it is of a benign character. In consequence of the continued prevalence of influenza in Budapest, the Minister of Education has authorised the municipal authorities to further postpone the opening of the schools should they consider such a step necessary. A Stuttgart telegram reports that 240 of the men employed on the State railways are suffering from influenza, and a number of goods trains have in consequence had to stop running. The grippe prevails with more or less severity from the Rocky Mountains to Quebec among all classes of the population, and appears to be spreading to a serious extent. In Montreal the postal service is much impeded, forty of the employees being in bed with the malady. The railway and telegraph offices are also depleted.

FATAL COLLISION OFF GRAVESEND.

At Gravesend on Thursday an inquiry was opened into the circumstances attending the death of George William Leader, captain of the steamship Hibernian, of Middleborough, who succumbed to injuries received in the collision between his vessel and the ketch Bosc of June. William Monaghan, the boatswain of the Hibernian, stated that early on Wednesday morning the steamer was proceeding down the Thames, bound for Boulogne. When near the Chapman Light the steamer and the ketch came into collision. The ketch was at anchor, and had her riding light up. The deceased, who was on the bridge at the time of the collision, was lifted off his feet and fell head foremost to the deck. The steamer was taken back to Gravesend, but by the time the vessel reached there Captain Leader was dead. Death, according to the medical evidence, was due to fracture of the skull. The inquest was adjourned until Monday.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

At the Sheriff's Court at Northampton on Thursday, before the under-sheriff and a common jury, the case of Smith v. Waite came forward for the assessment of damages in a breach of promise case brought by Harriet Elizabeth Smith, of Stoke Golding, against Thomas Waite, farmer, of Milton Keynes, Bucks. The writ was issued in August last, and the defendant allowed judgment to go by default. The parties became engaged in 1882. In August, 1885, the defendant wrote that he loved her better than life, and that it would be the one end and aim of his life to make her happy. In 1885 he called her his own darling wife, declaring that he would be a good husband. In 1886 he told her that his four years' courtship was the happiest in his life, and he begged her to say "yes." In 1887 the defendant was still pressing her to get married, and it was arranged for the marriage to take place in Wingham, Kent, but the defendant failed to put in an appearance. April, 1888, was next fixed, but obstacles were forthcoming at the last moment thrown in the way by the defendant, who treated the matter as a great joke. A verdict for £250 was given.

THE HAMILTON ASSAULT CASE.

At the London Sessions on Thursday, Mr. Frank Herbert Jessel, who was last session convicted of assaulting his brother-in-law, Mr. Julius Lawrance Hamilton, surrendered to his bail in compliance with the order of the court. The defendant now paid the fine of £150, and stated he had also paid the sum of £50 towards the cost of the prosecution. He then entered into his recognisances in the sum of £400, and two of his friends as sureties, each in the sum of £200, to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for twelve months.

BURLIARY IN THE CITY.

At the Guildhall Police Court on Thursday, William Stringer, otherwise Thomas Galloway, 20, was charged before Sir James Clark Lawrence with breaking and entering the premises of Messrs. Lindsay, Pembroke, and Co., ship stores and export merchants, 28 & 30, Church Buildings, and stealing therefrom a quantity of gold and money. Police-constable Reticall stated that at about eight o'clock on Wednesday night he saw the prisoner and another man in Jewin-street. In consequence of the prisoner's suspicious movements he took him to Moor-lane Police Station, and charged him with loitering. He was afterwards taken to Bishopsgate-street, and charged with breaking and entering. The prisoner said, "I admit taking the articles from the warehouse." Arthur Jones, assistant to Joseph Jones, pawnbroker, of 31, Church-street, Spitalfields, stated that a quarter to five on Saturday evening last the prisoner entered and offered a hydrometer and a silver spirit flask for pawn, asking 16s. for the two. He asked him where he got them from. He said he gave 16s. for the hydrometer. Knowing it was worth between four and five guineas he communicated with the police and the prisoner was given into custody. Police-constable Burge, 120 A, deposed to being called to Mr. Jones's shop, where the accused was given into custody. He was detained at Court on Monday. Witness handed him over to the care of other officers, and in his absence he made his escape. Richard William Spencer, warehouseman in the employ of the prosecutors, said that he was the last to leave the premises on Friday night. He looked them up, and all was safe. He was the first to arrive on the Saturday morning, when he found the front door wide open. It had been forced open. In the office on the ground floor he found all the coats and papers strewn about. Three hospital boxes had been forced open and emptied. The hydrometer and flask produced had been taken from a desk. All the desks had been forced open, and the place was in a state of great disorder. Mr. Hodges, assistant to the executors of E. A. Barker, pawnbroker, of Houndsditch, produced a dress suit, which he believed the prisoner had pawned on the 4th of January. Samuel Gardel, assistant to William Boden, pawnbroker, of Whitechapel, produced a field glass pawned on the 1st of January by the prisoner. Detective Abbott said that at nine o'clock that morning he saw the prisoner in Bishopsgate-street Station, when he (the prisoner) said, "I want to make a statement." Witness cautioned him. He then made a statement, which witness took down in writing, and prisoner signed. This gave an account of how he with "another young chap" broke into the place on Friday night. He stated that the property not pawned would be found at Grosvenor-street, and two witnesses went to that address and under the bed found a bag containing a large quantity of silver spoons and other property. He lifted up the lid of a mangle, and there found a quantity of knives, table spoons, and other articles, and in a cupboard he found six boxes of cigars. Mr. A. W. Rolfe, manager to the prosecutors, identified the property produced as belonging to the firm. Detective-sergeant Leamon proved a previous conviction for burglary, and the alderman committed the prisoner, who pleaded guilty, for trial.

THE BEER DUTY.

It is announced that Sir Edward Birkbeck and other members of Parliament representing agricultural districts, acting in concert with the various Chambers of Agriculture, intend to make a special effort to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to replace the beer duty at the standard at which it stood prior to the last Budget. It will be remembered that on that occasion Mr. Goschen, without raising the actual beer duty, altered the standard of gravity on which the duty is levied, and this was equivalent to something slightly under 3d. a barrel increase in the beer duty. Mr. Gladstone, who abolished the old malt duty in 1850, and originated the special system of taxing beer, protested against the standard of strength on which the duty is levied being altered as a means of raising money, and it is believed that the standard will not again be altered, but that Mr. Goschen will take the opportunity of fixing the normal beer duty at six shillings instead of six shillings and three-pence per barrel—a course which would satisfy all parties, and leave things much as they were before. It is stated that Sir Edward Birkbeck can command at least fifty Conservative votes on the question.

JUBILEE OF THE PENNY POST.

The statue of Rowland Hill, founder of the Penny Post, which stands by the Royal Exchange was adorned with evergreens on Friday in celebration of the jubilee of the Penny Post, which was inaugurated on January 10th, 1840.

MONEY MARKET.

Curr. Saturday.

Business on the Stock Exchange was nearly a standstill to-day. The Funds were steady. Foreign Government Securities favourably inclined. Home Railways depressed; American Railways stronger; Canadian Lines dull; Miscellaneous Securities unsettled. Latest quotations:—Consols, 96 7/8; ditto Account, 97 1/8; Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 94 1/2.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Argentine, 120 1/2; Brazil, 100 1/2; Egypt, 100 1/2; India, 100 1/2; Japan, 100 1/2; Mexico, 100 1/2; Peru, 100 1/2; Russia, 100 1/2; Spain, 100 1/2; United States, 100 1/2; Venezuela, 100 1/2.

RAILWAYS.

Brighton Ordinary, 100 1/2; Great Eastern, 100 1/2; London and North-Western, 100 1/2; Midland, 100 1/2; North-Eastern, 100 1/2; North-Western, 100 1/2; South-Eastern, 100 1/2; Southern, 100 1/2; T. & N. E. Ry., 100 1/2; W. & A. Ry., 100 1/2.

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS.

Central Pacific, 100 1/2; Great Northern, 100 1/2; Illinois Central, 100 1/2; Missouri Pacific, 100 1/2; New York Central, 100 1/2; Pennsylvania, 100 1/2; Rock Island, 100 1/2; St. Louis & N. O., 100 1/2; Union Pacific, 100 1/2; Wabash, 100 1/2.

OTHER AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Canadian Pacific, 100 1/2; Grand Trunk, 100 1/2; Mexican, 100 1/2; New England, 100 1/2; St. Paul & Northern Pacific, 100 1/2; Union Pacific, 100 1/2; Wabash, 100 1/2.

MINES.

Montana, 100 1/2; Rio Tinto, 100 1/2; Salisbury, 100 1/2; Sierra Leone, 100 1/2; T. & N. E. Ry., 100 1/2; W. & A. Ry., 100 1/2.

SCHEMATIC.

Allsopp, Ordinary, 100 1/2; Barratt's Brewery, 100 1/2; Bryant and May, 100 1/2; C. & A. Ry., 100 1/2; Guinness Ordinary, 100 1/2.

The prospectus is published of the Volcanic Water Company for the Supply of Aerated Water on Druggist-Messrs. Farrow and Jackson's patents. The capital of the company will be £100,000, divided into 90,000 ordinary shares and 1,000 founders' shares of £1 each, the latter not ranking for dividend until 50 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares. It is estimated, says the prospectus, that after paying all expenses the company will be able to pay a dividend of 40 per cent.

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